

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk December 15, 2013

East edition No 586

NEWS »

Changes agreed to Kent Freedom Pass

But how much will it cost county's parents?

FOOD »

Not a good time to be a turkey

'Tis the season of goodwill but not for our feathered friends

BUSINESS »

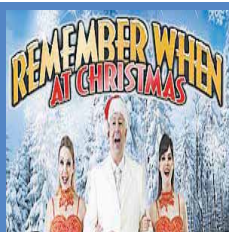
Business Review: Who hit the highs?

Focus on the successes

PROFILE »

Revival of the panto

Why traditional shows are once again taking centre stage



Remember When at Christmas
16 Dec 2.30pm



Jason Manford – 21 Jan 7.30pm



Brendan Cole – 5 Feb 7.30pm



Big Time American Wrestling
15 Feb 7pm



The Stranglers – 7 March 7pm
(doors)

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Decisions deliver an anti-climatic week ahead of flight plan

THERE were a host of big decisions made this week - all of which will have a considerable impact on our county.

Parents learned they will find themselves under yet more financial strain after Kent County Council introduced major changes to its Freedom Pass bus scheme - potentially adding hundreds of pounds on to annual budgets.

And if you live in Sevenoaks and hoped a grammar school was just around the corner, news that two rival bids to form one had both been thrown out was a bitter disappointment. Trying to see just where a solution to that problem lies is a difficult one.

Meanwhile, communities waiting on a government decision as to where the next Thames crossing is to be placed were left none the wiser. The expected announcement instead simply ruled out the option no-one



Editor **Chris Britcher**

really entertained as realistic.

In short, it was a rather disappointing week, yet one which could be transformed if plans for an airport in the Thames Estuary are this week left off the shortlist of viable options published by the Davies Commission in its investigation into how to ease aviation capacity in the south east.

This paper has long since opposed the plans which would bring widespread disruption and spoil so much of what makes this magnificent county of ours so very special.

Details of all of these stories are inside this weekend's paper, which also includes a look at two sides of the festive coin - the plight of the pantomime and of the turkey.

It will come as little surprise to realise both are sending cash tills ringing more than ever this year. And both our features inside make for fascinating reading.

Enjoy your weekend.



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Grammar expansion in Sevenoaks thrown out

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

CAMPAIGNERS fighting for grammar provision in Sevenoaks have vowed to fight on after education secretary Michael Gove threw out separate bids by two schools to create a satellite school in the town.

The Department for Education (DfE) confirmed on Friday that "neither of the proposals complied with the law".

Two grammars – Invicta Girls' Grammar in Maidstone and Weald of Kent in Tonbridge, also a girls' school – had put in rival bids to be the host school for the new annexe in Sevenoaks, which currently has no selective provision with children instead seeking places in Tonbridge or Tunbridge Wells.

New grammars cannot be built but expansion of existing selective schools is allowed.

But Mr Gove stated neither of the bids complied with the law on the grounds both schools are single sex and the satellite must be co-ed.

The DfE also stated that having different senior staff at the annexe and host school would not allow for full integration.



REJECTED: Education minister Michael Gove

Peter Read, of Kent Independent Education Advice, had forecast the situation. He said: "Sadly, for the

children of Sevenoaks they will have to continue to travel to other districts to achieve a grammar

school over the next few years.

"However, my view was and remains, that the original proposal was flawed.

"If it is to be revived either Michael Gove will have to change his procedures, which he shows no signs of, or fresh proposals will need to be made that meet his concerns. I am no lawyer, but in terms of the letters Mr Gove has written to the two schools, I can't see how this can go forward under the present constraints."

Sarah Shilling, of the Sevenoaks Grammar School Campaign, expressed her anger.

She said: "KCC has jumped through hoops to fit with the law. It spent two years doing this. I don't think it'll take this lying down.

"We will get there in the end, but it's likely to take years."

KCC cabinet member for education, Roger Gough, said the "knockback" was disappointing.

"The council took specialist legal advice on this matter and remain convinced that an annexe of an already established grammar school is the right way to respond to this issue. I will look at what KCC can do to continue arguing this case," he added.

Full reaction at kentnews.co.uk.

Pughsley all set to be named county's most senior police officer

ALAN Pughsley looks set to be named the new chief constable of Kent Police - the county's most senior police officer.

Currently deputy chief constable, he has been selected as the preferred candidate by Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes.

The recruitment process was triggered after the existing chief constable, Ian Learmonth, announced he was to retire from the post in January.

He will step down from the role on January 3.

The Police and Crime Panel will meet on December 20 to confirm the appointment. The panel exists to scrutinise the decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The appointment follows what Mrs Barnes described as "a robust and challenging selection process" earlier this week.

Mr Pughsley originally joined Kent Police in April 2009 as assistant chief constable for specialist operations, heading up the joint Kent

and Essex Serious Crime Directorate. He was appointed deputy chief constable in March 2011.

Prior to joining Kent he had served with the Metropolitan Police in London since 1984, with an expertise in murder, armed robbery, fire arms and drug investigations.

The recruitment panel included Mrs Barnes, policing adviser and former Ch Con of West Mercia Police Paul West, Nadeem Aziz, chief executive of Dover District Council, and Michael Bax, a former High Sheriff and local businessman.

As one of her duties as PCC, Ann Barnes has the power to hire - and indeed fire - the county's top officer.

Speaking to KoS last month, she admitted she and Ch Con Learmonth had "had our moments" but that they enjoyed a "good relationship". She said: "We're not mates, we don't live in each other's pockets - we have our moments - but there is a very strong professional relationship.

"We're on the same side aren't we?"

Rolling Stones' birthplace to be remembered with plaque

A BLUE heritage plaque is to be erected at Dartford train station to commemorate a key meeting between two Kent schoolboys which would trigger the creation of one of the world's best-loved rock bands.

Mick Jagger and Keith Richards had attended the same school but met again on a platform at the station in 1961 and agreed to form a band. They would become the

Rolling Stones.

Dartford Borough Council leader Jeremy Kite explained: "We started putting blue plaques around the town about five years ago and it has been really popular.

"Mick Jagger was always on the list as he is obviously very high profile and a famous Dartfordian. We'll let him and Keith know about it. It would be nice if they come down, but we will have to see."

TV favourite to open her local village's festive market

ACCLAIMED actress Pam Ferris will be opening her local food festival this weekend.

The star of such hits as the Darling Buds of May, Call the Midwife, Luther and Rosemary and Thyme, will open the Elham Christmas Food Festival and Market, which takes place this Sunday.

It will be opened at noon in Elham Square.

She will be joined by local children dressed as pixies and fairies, and some popular pantomime characters.

Julie Woodgate, manager of the Elham Farmers' Market, said: "It is only once a year that the square in Elham reverts to its original purpose of being a market place."

The market runs until 3.30pm.



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Black mark lifted off KCC's children's services

THE Government spotlight has come off Kent County Council's children's services department after it continued to show signs of improvement.

The children's minister had slapped an improvement notice on the department after Ofsted termed it 'inadequate' in 2010.

But now minister Edward Timpson has lifted the notice after KCC achieved much-improved Ofsted

reports in all three areas of the service in the past year.

Jenny Whittle, KCC cabinet member for specialist children's services, said: "I would like to thank all staff for their hard work. We have already received endorsement from Ofsted for the work we have done so far and the lifting of the improvement notice is the next step. However, we are not complacent and we remain totally focused on continuing these improvements."



MISSED: Det Con Andrew Grew

Parents face rising cost of school travel as new Freedom Pass given nod

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

PARENTS face increased costs on school travel for their children amid a major shake-up to the popular Freedom Pass bus scheme which will see unrestricted use stopped.

While families will still buy the pass for £100 – including now for those aged 16-19 – the new pass, harnessing smartcard technology, will instead have limited credit.

For 11-16-year-olds, this will be £350 and for older children £250. Once that credit runs out, the financial burden will fall to parents.

Currently, the Freedom Pass offers unrestricted use during the school week and weekends for a one-off payment of £100 – but it costs cash-strapped Kent County Council £13.5 million a year.

The roll-out of the subsidised travel to 16-19-year-olds – following a 16,000-signature strong petition by parents to extend the Freedom Pass to older students – would add £6m.



TRAVEL: Bus costs set to soar

ment, highways and waste cabinet committee on Friday.

Cabinet member for transport, David Brazier, said in spite of the upcoming changes it was still a "very good scheme".

"We have not abolished it," he said. "We know how valued it is and to what extent young people and parents rely on it."

But others warned of the financial burden on parents.

"Parents made the decision on schooling based on the Freedom Pass in its current form," said Lib Dem member Rob Bird. "So, if a parent wants their child to go to a school 12 miles away they think it will cost £100. Now they are looking at costs of £800-£900 per annum. That is completely unaffordable."

Labour member Colin Caller put forward an amendment to keep the Freedom Pass as it is, but restricted instead to just school journeys.

Highways director John Burr said weekend use of the pass was small and restricting it might stop children attending after-school clubs.

Tributes for police officer killed in crash

THE family of a police officer killed when his car smashed into a bus on the A21 this week has described him as "the best husband, a fantastic daddy and a passionate family man".

Detective Constable Adrian Grew, 32, suffered fatal injuries on Monday after the crash at around 6.20pm near Scotney Castle, at Lamberhurst, as he returned home after work.

He leaves behind a wife and baby son.

In a statement, his family said: "On Monday night, our whole world caved in and we lost the most amazing man.

"Not only was he the best husband, a fantastic daddy, the best son, brother and friend, but he was also a dedicated and professional police officer who loved his job. It is difficult for us to contemplate life without him.

"Rest in peace Adrian, there's a huge hole in our lives without you."

Former work colleagues have also spoken of his loss.

Detective Inspector Jon Armory worked alongside Det Con Grew in the Serious Organised Crime Unit and said: "He was a highly capable and well respected detective...Adrian had a very bright future ahead of him and was a fantastic colleague to work with. He will be sorely missed by all of us who knew and worked with him."

Jail after crook found with stolen chickens

A BURGLAR caught red-handed with a pair of stolen live chickens during a mini crime-wave has been jailed for two years.

Aubrey Hope, 24, went on a crime spree across Minster on Sheppey, on August 26, stealing chickens, BMX bikes, a mountain bike and a screwdriver, which he then used to force entry into an aviary, stealing a cage containing canaries.

He dumped the stolen goods at his home in Lapwing Close – and the chickens in a wheelie bin – and went to raid a property in Lupin Close. He then planned to steal the victim's Alpha Romeo GT parked in the driveway, but in a bungled attempt, crashed it into the neighbour's VW Polo, waking the victim and neighbour who saw him running away.

As police arrived in Lapwing Close using an app on a pinched iPhone to locate him, Hope arrived, together with a bag containing the stolen chickens.

'Pepper spray' thug gets nine months

A POLISH man who sprayed a burning substance in the eyes of innocent passers-by in Canterbury has been jailed for nine months.

Pawel Bartoszuk carried out the attacks on two men on September 1 in the city centre.

The 20-year-old, who had arrived in Kent three months prior, was with a group of friends in the early hours of the morning as revellers were making their way home from pubs and clubs.

He approached a 28-year-old man who was walking alone through St Peter's Street and sprayed him in the eyes with what is believed to have been pepper spray.

Half an hour later, at around 4am, he used the same canister to attack a 22-year-old man who was walking through the High Street.

As the distressed victim tried to clear his eyes, an associate of Bartoszuk, Martin Szelag, then punched and kicked him in the head, leaving the man unconscious. Szelag, 19, was jailed in October for his role in the second attack.

Centre surprised by royal shopping trip

A SHOPPING centre in Tunbridge Wells had an impromptu visit from royalty this week.

The Queen of Spain surprised the centre's management by arriving for several hours of Christmas shopping at the Royal Victoria Place complex in Tunbridge Wells town centre.

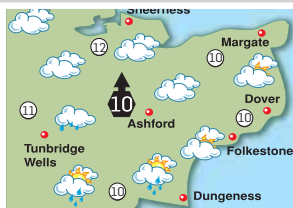
It comes as the centre celebrates its 21st anniversary.

Queen Sofia was joined by her daughter, Princess Elena, along with a team of security staff, at the centre on Monday.

Marc Burchett, marketing manager of Royal Victoria Place, said: "Tunbridge Wells has always proved a popular destination with royals throughout the town's history and therefore it is a great honour they chose to come and visit us during our special year."

The pair left laden with shopping bags.

The centre is no stranger to royalty. It is named after Queen Victoria and was officially opened in October 1992 by Princess Diana.



TODAY: Breezy and mostly cloudy with spells of rain. Light winds. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F). **TONIGHT:** Breezy with spells of rain. Min temp 5-8C (41-46F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Location	09.28	6.2	21.58	6.2
Dover	09.28	6.2	21.58	6.2
Margate	10.28	4.4	23.02	4.5
St Mary's	03.07	5.1	15.27	5.2

WEEK AHEAD

Day	Max	Min
Monday	13C	6C
Tuesday	10C	4C
Wednesday	10C	6C
Thursday	10C	4C
Friday	10C	5C
Saturday	9C	5C

Information supplied by **MeteoGroup**

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Davies Commission to unveil airport shortlist

THE Davies Commission will on Tuesday announce the sites it sees as viable options to increase aviation capacity in the south east.

Led by economist Sir Howard Davies, the independent commission received 58 proposals on how to solve the lack of runway space.

Options include expansion at Heathrow, Stansted and Gatwick as

well as the controversial development of a Thames Estuary airport; an option loudly championed by London Mayor Boris Johnson.

These have now been whittled down to a shortlist.

A final decision will be made after the General Election in 2015.

Although kept a closely guarded secret, rumours this week sug-



gested key to the shortlist will be options concerning Heathrow.

That will come as a relief to many in the county, including all the major authorities and MPs who oppose an estuary airport.

First households poised to get faster broadband

THE first major milestone in the county's Broadband Delivery UK rollout will be reached next week as the first area to take advantage of the superfast connection goes live.

It forms part of a major infrastructure project aimed at providing superfast broadband to most households by 2015.

Kent's £40 million scheme –

funded by £10m from KCC, £9.87m from government and £19.6m from BT – will deliver higher speeds to 95 per cent of properties, with 91 per cent of those superfast. Those unable to access high speeds will still have access to at least 2mbps.

KCC is keeping tight-lipped about which area will go live first, expected on Wednesday.

...also

Choir's TV challenge

A CHOIR formed of staff from ferry firm P&O will be looking to reach the next stage of a televised singing contest on Tuesday.

It is part of The Choir: Sing While You Work, the BBC2 show fronted by choirmaster Gareth Malone which pits workplace singing groups against one another.

Strongest man steps up

DARTFORD man Terry Hollands will appear on the World's Strongest Man on Channel 5 from Monday.

The former professional rugby player finished third in the 2007 and 2011 competition and is hoping to bag the top spot this year.

Outpatient talks begin

THE first of a series of public meetings into plans to cut the number of outpatient facilities from 15 down to six across east Kent is being held.

It will be at Hythe's Imperial Hotel from 9.30am on Tuesday. For full details of the plans see story inside this edition.

Mental health scrutinised

MEDWAY'S mental health services will be discussed in detail at a committee meeting at the council on Wednesday following concerns over provision.

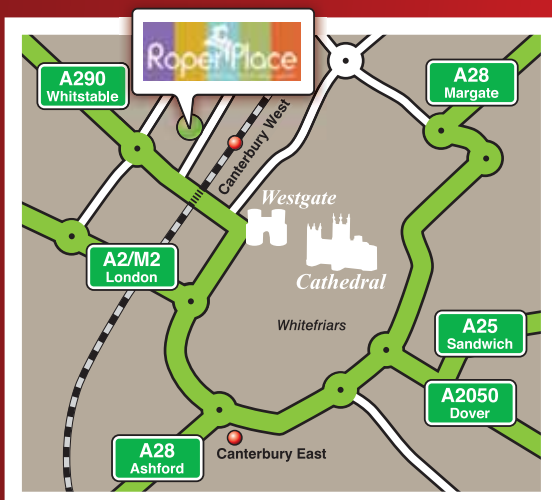
It follows the closure of A Block at Medway Maritime Hospital as well as the planned reconfiguration of services.



Christmas Market

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th December 2013

- * Jewellery
- * Christmas Gifts
- * Wine for Fine Dining
- * Kentish Cheeses
- * Health Drinks
- * Chocolate Decorations
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Sunday 15th December 10:30am – 4:30pm

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Profile

THEY were once joined at home for a Christmas Day lunch by one of the original cast of Star Trek cast.

And star of 1970s TV show *The Professionals*, the late Lewis Collins, predicted they would marry the first week they met.

What's more, as KoS arrives at their sumptuous home they are fielding a phone call about a poorly Gareth Gates – the Pop Idol turned West End star.

They are, it's safe to say, no ordinary couple. We are deep into show business territory here.

Because Emily Wood, 36, and Paul Hendy, 47, are the married couple who have created a goose which has, for the last decade, been laying golden eggs.

Through their Evolution Productions company, they are today responsible for eight of the UK's finest pantomimes, employing a host of big names, and hundreds of supporting cast and crew.

And despite the economic gloom, they are finding their efforts are returning more than simply a bag of magic beans.

"It's always been the way, but when the economy slumps light entertainment seems to do well," explains Mr Hendy, a familiar face from his days as a children's TV presenter.

Today he wears a variety of hats – writer, director and producer – for a host of shows they produce.

"All our pantos are up both in terms of bums on seats and takings at the box office," he explains on a rare moment at home before he heads off to fulfil the role of director at the productions in Sheffield, Crawley and, rather more convenient to their Easry base, Canterbury.

"But what other genre can four generations of the same family enjoy?" he asks.

The pantomime, it seems, has plenty of life in it yet.

No more the butt of jokes, it is more often than not taking centre stage when it comes to production values, value for money and making a healthy profit.

His wife of 10 years, Emily Wood, has panto blood coursing through her veins.

Daughter of renowned panto and theatre producer Kevin Wood, she attended her first pantomime when she was 10 and was immediately hooked.

From the age of 14 she was working as an assistant stage manager at theatres in London during her Christmas holidays, assisting her father's productions.

By the time she was at Oxford University, there was already no turning back ("I did French and Italian," she

explains. "I'd leave at the end of term and I'd head off to panto – I think they thought I was mad.").

After graduating, she worked in film production and on high-end advertisements – including the acclaimed Guinness 'tick follows tock' surfing ad.

But her desire was to go it alone with her own company.

Today she continues the family panto tradition with Evolution.

"He's the show," she says of her husband, "and I'm the business."

While Mr Hendy handles much of the creative side of the operation, she spends much of her winter driving around the country and making sure her eight spinning plates don't end up like one of her husband's scripted panto comedy routines and crashing around their ears.

Certainly her business miles must add up.

In addition to the Kent productions at the Marlowe in Canterbury and Chatham's Central Theatre, they now stage shows in Croydon, Shrewsbury, St Albans, Yeovil and the previously mentioned Sheffield and Crawley.

"We go from employing about five people for most of the year," Mrs Wood explains, "to around 250 at this time of year."

Both are thoroughly amiable folk – they chat animatedly about their professions and lives – but the success of their operation is based around a steely determination to succeed and good old fashioned hard work.

Mr Hendy added: "People ask what producers do. Well, ultimately we take the financial risk. We employ everyone, the sets, the costumes, the casting, the script, pretty much everything. We liaise with marketing teams at each theatre over the design of the print advertising and how much is spent."

It is clearly a highly pressured environment, despite the slapstick, smiles and songs which each of the shows seeks to deliver to an evermore demanding audience.

"This is rare for us to be with each other for a couple of hours at this time of year," she adds.

"The rest of the year we're together the whole time. I think a lot of marriages would struggle, but we work better like this."

"But we really do go to bed talking about casting ideas and wake-up talking about sets. Then we do the school run and head to the office."

We're sat in the conservatory which flows from their kitchen.

Their home is a fine rural retreat which they moved into some six years ago and admit to having invested plenty in it over the years; transforming dilapidated stables I can glimpse as we chat, into an office which acts as the centre of operations.

The walls of their home are lined with theatre posters and mementos. Most notably a host of Morecambe and Wise images.

The comedy duo are a genuine passion for Paul Hendy. Such is his devotion, Evolution has acquired the rights to take the award-winning West End show Morecambe on a UK tour next year. He admits it may not break even, but that it deserves to be taken to a wider audience.

Read into that, that Evolution is now working to the point where profit levels allow it to take a risk, while still supporting those five members of staff all-year-round.

As their family cat strolls across the



A FAMILY AFFAIR: Emily Wood and Paul Hendy are responsible for producing eight pantomimes around the country this year
Picture: ADY KERRY

Life is just one big pantomime for theatre duo

“We really do go to bed talking about casting ideas and wake-up talking about sets. Then we do the school run and head to the office”

Emily Wood, on family life behind the scenes at Evolution

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk

KEA

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table, it nudges a pile of Christmas cards waiting for delivery.

In addition to handling eight pantomimes, they also have three young children – all under the age of nine.

More plates to keep spinning, then.

And that is before we get on to the topic of the big names and their egos.

"For a few weeks of the year it is very stressful," Emily Wood explains, "so if you can have a smooth ship it makes it much easier. You don't want to be working with egos and tantrums."

For the celebrities who top the bill, the rewards for a few months panto can be considerable. While the couple keep tight-lipped about how much they pay, the general consensus on a national scale is the big names are earning upward of £50,000.

Which, for a little over two months' work, isn't to be sniffed at.

Not, of course, that they don't work hard for their money; performers can be expected to put to turn out for 13 performances a week, with three frequently staged on a Saturday. Most lose more than a stone in weight during the run.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, with companies brought together to work and play, romances are not uncommon.

"Because they work so hard, they play hard too," explains Emily Wood.

"There are always panto romances as everyone works so closely. That's how Paul and I started out."

The couple met while Mr Hendy was in panto at the Marlowe, Christmas 1997 – a production of *Beauty and the Beast* – the star of which was *The Professionals* star Lewis Collins.

Mrs Wood, who grew up in Deal and went to school in Sandwich, explained.

"I was at university and back at Christmas to see the panto, which my father was producing. And I met a handsome man in blue and yellow tights. We hit it off straight away."

Mr Hendy adds: "I was performing alongside Lewis Collins, who sadly died recently, and he said 'you'll marry her' in the first week we met."

The couple admit there have been more than a few romances at their productions over the years; many of which have lasted the test of time.

Mrs Wood says: "We've had a few ongoing relationships and a baby – between a choreographer and an actor. We take full credit. It's nice."

"Because so many of the actors are so far from home, on Christmas Day we have my family here for lunch – it's the only day we get off – and invite any actors who can't get home round here."

Mr Hendy said: "We've had George Takei [Mr Sulu from *Star Trek*], Gordon Kaye [star of *Allo Allo*], a Swedish dwarf, and our musical director, Chris Wong, always comes along."

"It's always quite an ensemble. It's nice. Then back to work the next day."

The couple had been living in London, but when their first child Freddie was born, they decided to trade in their 'modest' Victorian house in the capital for a country place.

They made the move after coming down to Canterbury for a party to mark the 60th birthday of Dave Lee – the comedy star who, until his death in 2012, aged 64, was the stalwart of the Marlowe Theatre panto.

Says Mr Hendy: "We just realised we knew everyone so thought why not move near here? Emily's family are nearby and we love it here. There's



DOUBLE ACT: Paul Hendy and Emily Wood get in the spirit of things during rehearsals, but its all in a day's work for the Kent couple currently running eight shows, including the Marlowe's Jack and the Beanstalk starring *EastEnders*' Samantha Womack. They've also worked with Vanilla Ice and George Takei (right)

Hendy: Spinning life's wheel of fortune

DURING the 1990s, Paul Hendy emerged as one of a new breed of fresh-faced TV presenters – straddling both children's TV, where he made his name, and mainstream entertainment.

From presenting the likes of the Disney Club he would go on to host ITV's *Wheel of Fortune* and appear alongside Davina McCall in *Don't Try This At Home*.

"I had a real burning ambition to be a presenter and be famous," he admits.

"I remember sitting in a dressing

room at London Weekend Television and thinking 'this might be as good as it gets'.

"I'm on a Saturday night ITV show, and that was my dream."

"And I was quite happy at the thought of having reached that level. I liked fame, but I never had the downside of it."

"I'd get free things and it was nice to feed the ego that people knew me, but it was never intrusive."

"It wasn't that I didn't want to be famous – just that it wasn't what it was cracked up to be."

After penning two novels, and meeting Emily, he realised he was at a crossroads.

He explains: "When we had our first child, Freddie, I started changing my outlook."

"Kevin [Emily's father] was about to retire so I had a business opportunity, and I'd felt I'd had my moment."

"I thought I was a good presenter, but I wasn't the best, so I knew why I only reached a certain level."

"But with panto I was aware I was good at it."

a real sense of community."

As their name suggests, they are not prepared to rest on their laurels when it comes to their productions.

“For a few weeks of the year it is stressful so if you can have a smooth ship it makes it much easier. You don't want to be working with egos and tantrums”

Emily Wood, on juggling the famous names in her many shows

The *Canterbury* show has made great strides since their first in 2005.

They took over the show after Mrs Wood's father, Kevin, made a late career switch.

"My father had been about to retire and we were set to take the business over," she explains, "but then one of the big theatre groups wanted him to produce their pantos so they took him on instead."

"So he now has this whole new career. We've been in competition with them a few times, but we're completely independent."

Kevin Wood had spent years behind the scenes in the theatre directing and producing various productions, when he decided his focus should be on the end of year knees-up.

His daughter explains: "The story

goes that in the early 1980s he was doing Pinter at a theatre in Stevenage, playing to about two men and a dog. Someone at the theatre said he should do the panto the following week instead as it had huge audiences."

"I think he had a light bulb moment."

"It's just more satisfying putting something on everyone loves. I love being in the theatre at the finale and everyone is laughing and smiling."

No-one, perhaps, has a wider smile on their face as they look out over those packed arenas than the theatre director.

Today the pantomime often provides the financial boost for the theatre which keeps the wolf from the door – especially in these austere times when disposable income for many families has long stopped being

a luxury they can afford.

Mr Hendy explained: "For a lot of theatres it is their lifeblood. It's what keeps that theatre alive. People come through the doors and pick up leaflets about what else is on."

Mrs Wood adds: "Even at the Marlowe, they admit the success of pantomime allows them to put on rather more diverse, and perhaps less populist shows during the rest of the year; and having the bank buoyed by the panto they can do that."

You can discuss the health of theatres until the (pantomime) cows come home, but there is an undeniable buzz to be sat at the heart of an audience when the colourful festive shows are in full swing.

Mr Hendy points out: "Some families have spent more than £100 on their tickets and that's a big responsibility isn't it?"

"The higher we set the bar makes it harder for next year. But just 10 years ago, there was a definitely an attitude of 'that will do' with panto."

"It's not 'only panto' anymore – it's more important."

Certainly the calibre of performers turning to perform panto increases year on year.

In the past, Chatham's Central Theatre has hired some international stars – from the likes of George Takei to rapper Vanilla Ice.

Not that everyone fits the bill, however.

Mrs Wood explains: "You don't get very many names who bring the box office and are good on stage."

"I think an extra five to 10 per cent of the audiences are attracted by the



name. But I like to think more is through reputation."

Mr Hendy adds: "We don't like just casting someone because they won Big Brother. We want people who can genuinely do it, so when they're on stage you haven't conned the public; so you're putting on a good show."

"Our ethos is building reputation and that's working."

"We think of our shows as West End quality shows and the money we spend is a big investment. We want people to notice it and for many people it's their yearly trip to the theatre."

Emily Wood says before casts are announced, their productions have taken more than £300,000 in advance ticket sales – proof people are buying into the experience rather than simply the celebrities, it would seem.

Most theatres expect their pantos to perform to an average 80 per cent capacity crowd.

The Evolution shows are currently delivering in excess of 90 per cent.

Little wonder they remain in demand. Yet they remain anxious they do not grow too big or too fast.

Mr Hendy said: "When we first

started we watched a thing about turkey farming. One mass produced thousands of turkeys, all pumped full of water, and one just had 100, but they were the best you could buy. We said that's what we wanted.

"We started with four and have eight – so we've doubled in nine years – but we're at capacity and in fact we've handed in our notice at one of them because we don't want to lose control. We've had plenty of approaches. We could do 15 if we wanted to."

"But ultimately we want to keep the quality high. We're quite happy

with what we do."

Planning for next year's pantomimes are already under way – with casts likely to be confirmed, in private at least, next month.

Tickets normally go on sale during the summer, allowing momentum to build as the year draws to a close.

Says Emily Wood: "Normally we start casting in January – and we'll have started discussions a year in advance. We'll know what the subjects are, so we will be thinking about sets and costumes a year or so ahead."

Oh no they won't. Oh yes they will.

Theatre takes 'relaxed' view for special show

FOR most people, the appeal of seeing pantomime lies in its carefully choreographed anarchy: the spills, the thrills, the scares and the song and dance.

For some, however, that is reason to avoid it.

But the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells is taking special steps to ensure its pantomime this year can be enjoyed by all.

On January 2, there will be a special 'relaxed' performance of a matinee performance of its Jack and the Beanstalk production, starring

Waterloo Road's Philip Martin Brown (pictured right).

It is aimed at families with children with an autistic spectrum condition, sensory and communication disorders, a learning disability or for anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed environment.

Producers will make some small changes to the show, in terms of lighting and sound cues, but the overall content of the show will not change.

There's also a more relaxed attitude to noise in the auditorium,

in order to reduce anxiety and ensure a safe, enjoyable theatre visit.

And anyone who books will be sent a visual story, providing detailed information and photos about the theatre and show, in advance, so they know exactly what to expect. There will even be a designated 'chill-out' area for use during the performance.

Brian McAteer, the theatre director, said: "We're absolutely delighted to be one of the first theatres in the south east to hold a relaxed performance. Our plan is for relaxed performances to become as

standard a part of a show's schedule, as signed performances are for the hearing-impaired."

Martin Dodd, director of UK Productions, which is staging the show, added: "We believe everybody should have the opportunity to be excited and inspired by live theatre, but unfortunately in the past many people with autism or similar conditions have felt excluded."

"With this performance we aim to make the theatre feel welcoming and inclusive for these children, young adults and their families."



STAR LINE-UPS

Looking to catch a pantomime in Kent this year? Then you're really spoiled for choice.

Jack & The Beanstalk
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Starring: Samantha Womack, Phil Gallagher
Runs until: January 12
www.marlowetheatre.com

Cinderella
Churchill Theatre, Bromley
Starring: Anna Williamson, Matt Lapinskas
Runs until: January 5
www.atgtickets.com

Jack & The Beanstalk
Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Starring: Philip Martin Brown, Luke Roberts
Runs until: January 5
www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

Cinderella
Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Starring: Bradley Walsh
Runs until: January 4
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

Robin Hood
Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks
Starring: Alan Fletcher, Andy Abraham
Runs until: January 5
www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk

Snow White
Central Theatre, Chatham
Starring: Sam Attwater, Steve Hewlett
Runs until: January 5
www.tickets.medway.gov.uk

Dick Whittington
Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone
Starring: Keith Jack, Cerrie Burnett
Runs until: January 5
www.maidstonepanto.co.uk

Cinderella
Theatre Royal, Margate
Starring: Scott Wright, Lynette McMorrough
Runs until: December 29
www.theatreroyalmargate.com

AFTER all the expectation and discussions, Thursday's eagerly anticipated announcement over the location of the much-discussed third Thames crossing was rather underwhelming.

Rather than a decision over which of the three options was to be selected, it turned out that simply the rank outsider was to be discounted.

Option B – which would have seen a link created between the Swanscombe peninsula and the A1089 in Tilbury, Essex – was officially ruled out by the Department for Transport.

It means it will now be a straight choice between building another link at Dartford – next to the existing bridge and tunnel – or, where much of the smart money is going, at Gravesend.

In truth, the Swanscombe option was always a rank outsider from the start. Were it to go ahead it would end any hopes of an enormous theme park being built. With a licence to brand itself using films from the Paramount movie studios, the park is set to bring in £2 billion of investment and create a staggering 27,000 jobs.

Any decision this week which would have ended that dream, given the tough economic climate, would have been political suicide.

What this week's decision does mean, however, is residents, traders and commuters are still in limbo.

The Government has vowed it will continue consultation over the two other options, but has not said when any decision will be made.

Paul Carter, Conservative leader of Kent County Council, admitted "disappointment" at the announcement.

Backing Option C – to build at Gravesend – he said: "We were promised there would be a quick turnaround on the decision for a third Thames crossing and I am disappointed no decision has been made."

"It is a massively important project to unlock significant growth in the Thames Gateway and we will be asking ministers for a rapid decision on the two options that remain."

"It is too vital a project to be allowed to drift any longer."

Dartford MP Gareth Johnson took some heart, however.

He said: "This will be welcome news for local residents and for developers who are keen to make a significant investment in that area."

"The Government has recognised the huge potential that exists in Swanscombe and the potential for jobs and the future economic benefits for the Dartford area."

"The Swanscombe peninsula, right next to the High Speed 1 station at Ebbsfleet, has enormous potential. Paramount is very keen to build a theme park there which would generate significant jobs and revitalise the area."

Transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin made the announcement.

He said: "We had more than 5,700 responses to the consultation and we have carefully considered each of them. Ruling out the least attractive option now gives some clarity for local residents and businesses."

"We are committed to making a decision on the location of the new crossing as soon as possible, but we recognise whatever crossing location is chosen it will have significant impact for people in the area and the economy."

"These are tough decisions to be made and must not be taken lightly."

So what of the two remaining choices?

Bridge of sighs as wait continues over site for third Thames crossing

Joe Bill reports on the Government's decision to rule out one of the options for a new road link to Essex rather than, as was hoped, reveal its location – leaving two towns still in limbo



FAST BUCK: Hopes new free-flow tolls on the Dartford crossing due in 2014 could alleviate need for a third link



CROSSING PLEA

ENVIRONMENT groups say they are pleased the Government has ruled out one of the options for a third Thames crossing – but want the plans scrapped in their entirety.

CPRE Protect Kent said the proposal for a new link was "premature".

"There are a multitude of impacts which have yet to be felt at the current crossing," said a spokesman.

"The new London Gateway port in Essex has the ability to get freight off the roads and the new high speed tolling system will remove the bottlenecks which are currently created by motorists having to slow to pay their tolls."

"It's just a shame that the Government has not decided to postpone the entire proposal, as the area around Dartford and the open countryside east of Gravesend will remain under threat."

Option A would see a new crossing built at the existing Dartford/Thurrock site next to the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge.

Option C would connect the M2 with the A13 and the M25 between junctions 29 and 30, crossing the Thames east of Gravesend.

With uncertainty remaining over the permanent site of the new crossing, the Freight Transport Association has implored the Government to make a swift decision.

The group says the crippling effect of traffic around the Dartford crossing is costing businesses and the economy more money every day.

The FTA's head of road network management, Malcolm Bingham, said: "This announcement brings us no closer to building the much-needed new lower Thames crossing."

"There is absolutely no doubt that improving capacity and easing congestion at Dartford is essential."

"After consulting with our members on what the best crossing would be, it was widely considered Option C would bring the most benefits to the freight industry, and would help tackle congestion at Dartford."

"Therefore we feel that this announcement is simply slowing down the process".

Kent County Council is also supporting the Gravesend option – despite local opposition.

However, the delay in making a final decision could allow transport chiefs to study the impact of free-flow tolls that are set to be installed at Dartford's crossings in October 2014.

Earlier this year, a £367 million contract to deliver the new automated tolls system was signed by French motorway operator Sanef.

It is hoped the removal of the barriers will ease congestion, with new technology allowing drivers to use the crossing without having to stop to hand over payment.

Road users will instead be able to pay over the phone, by text, online and at retail outlets before they use the crossing.

Dartford MP Gareth Johnson says he will continue to fight to stop another crossing being built at Dartford.

He said: "People in Dartford are fed up with the misery the crossing has given them over many years."

"I have always felt it would be premature to give the go-ahead to another Thames crossing right now."

"Next autumn the automated booths come into operation and it would be far more beneficial to monitor the effects of this before committing to another Thames crossing in north west Kent."

Equally defiant, Adam Holloway, the MP for Gravesend, says he will campaign in an effort to make sure the new crossing is not built in his constituency.

Mr Holloway says any such crossing will cut through villages and damage countryside.

He said: "Hopefully they [the Government] will recognise the strength of local feeling against Option C, and that there is a case for delaying any decision until we can see the effects of removing the tolls at Dartford next October."

"I will keep in touch with constituents about this and I hope it will not be too long into 2014 before we have a decision. If the news then is disappointing, I would like to reassure people we will continue to fight this."



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BEFORE



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CHANGING FACES: Warren Court Hotel in Cliftonville, and 61 Beach Street, Deal, are two prime examples of how KCC's No Use Empty scheme breathes fresh life into towns with run-down buildings

KEA

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The regeneration project cleaning up communities

In 2005, Kent County Council began No Use Empty (NUE), aimed at getting abandoned and derelict properties back on the housing market, the success of which has surprised organisers who this year celebrated their 3,000th restored home. **Dave Mairs** looks at the scheme rejuvenating parts of Kent

IT could almost be a scene from *The Wire* or some other crime drama from America's urban badlands, but the photograph of decay and abandonment (top, left) comes from Cliftonville, the once-plush area of Margate that perhaps more than any other symbolises the decline of so many of our coastal towns.

Encouragingly, however, the image of the Warren Court Hotel is the 'before' shot providing tangible evidence of a scheme that, for once, embodies the term 'regeneration' in its correct context and is hard to imagine anyone disputing.

The scheme is No Use Empty (NUE) and was started in 2005 by Kent County Council with the ambition of returning derelict or empty properties to use and, of course, in many cases habitation.

The rehabilitation of the Warren Court Hotel is one of the more striking examples among more than 3,000 properties across the county that have been given a new lease of life thanks to NUE.

Central to the process is the awarding of interest-free loans to owners and developers wanting to revive long-term-empty properties (LTEs), which are defined as having been vacant for at least six months.

These awards can be of up to £25,000 per property, with a maximum loan of £175,000 per applicant.

In addition to the loans, which have a maximum 90 per cent loan-to-value (the ratio of a loan to the value of what is being bought), the two main tools used by NUE are a partnership fund, which works in default and compulsory purchase orders, and direct purchase.

Loans, which must be repaid within three years, are not offered where the property will be occupied by the applicant. Rather, any property must be let or sold on completion; it also has to meet the decent homes standard.

Any arena involving large sums of money is liable to attract individuals with dubious motives, perhaps nowhere more than in the world of property, so how does NUE regeneration project manager Steve Grimshaw and his colleagues determine who is a genuine applicant and who has less than lofty ambitions?

"We've only had one loan that's gone bad on us," said Mr Grimshaw, whose team is assisted by at least one empty homes officer from each district authority in the county.

Once ownership of the property is established – itself sometimes a taxing process – a site meeting is set up and discussions held with the

applicant and consultants.

Among the elements necessary for any NUE project to get moving include confirmation of its proven viability, available finance, ownership arrangements (and VAT and tax strategies), two quotes for the cost of the work, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors valuations, a letter of consent from a mortgage company, a check of money-laundering regulations identification and presentation of company accounts.

In short, this money is not handed out willy-nilly.

Partnered with the initial County Hall operation were the local authorities of Thanet, Dover, Shepway and Swale, but by 2009 the scheme had been rolled out across the county to incorporate all 12 district and borough councils.

Emerging from the second round of Public Service Agreements, NUE was bankrolled by the county council through a capital-funding package of £6.6 million, a third of which came from central government.

The scheme has, by any measure, exceeded expectations.

A target of 376 properties brought back into use within three years became an actual figure of 478, and it was this year, when some 600 properties were returned to use, that the milestone figure of 3,000 was reached.

Consider further that a similar empty-homes project in the capital, initiated by Mayor of London Boris Johnson, returned a mere eight homes to use last year, and the achievement of NUE is put into context.

In Kent, meanwhile, the county council approved loans totalling £2.5m in 2013 – a record year – while overall the scheme has received total investment of £25m, a third coming from KCC's empty-homes loan fund and two-thirds from owners and developers.

Given Kent had some 9,000 LTEs at the start of NUE, a reduction of a third is clearly reason to be cheerful.

"Returning a third of the homes that lay empty when we launched the scheme in 2005 is a significant marker for us," said Mr Grimshaw.

"This has been a bumper year for No Use Empty, as we have launched our affordable-homes partnership with Amicus Horizon, as well as issuing our biggest loan to date, which shows the initiative is evolving while still achieving its goals.

"We are always looking for new projects to undertake, so we urge owners of empty properties to get in touch."

If it is easy to get lost in a welter of facts, figures and pound signs, it is wise to remember that No Use Empty is very much a human tale.

"Every property has its own story," said Mr Grimshaw. "It might be a death, a family dispute, or simply an owner's neglect and disregard.

"We have about 20-30 projects on the go at any one time.

"There's a real range of properties: there are warehouse, chapel and YMCA conversions, there's a pub in Dover, while properties above shops are the flavour of the month."

“ Every property has its own story. It might be a death, a family dispute, or simply an owner's neglect. We have about 20-30 projects on the go at any one time, a real range ”

Steve Grimshaw, project manager of the regeneration project No Use Empty

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BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



REBUILDING: To put Kent's NUE success into perspective, more than 3,000 homes have been developed in three years while a similar project in London saw only eight returned to use in a year

« PAGE 15

Back in Margate, close to the Warren Court Hotel, is the Arcadian, one of the most striking buildings on the seafront and one which has gained greater prominence courtesy of its proximity to the much-celebrated Turner Contemporary art gallery.

The Arcadian's dilapidated appearance seemed to encapsulate much of what was wrong with Margate during its lowest ebb, prompting Thanet District Council to eventually threaten the owner with a compulsory purchase order.

Responding to what Mr Grimshaw describes as "a carrot and stick approach", the owner, who held the freehold but not all the leaseholds, agreed to improve the exterior of the building if the council withdrew its threat of compulsory purchase.

With a deal reached and all the leaseholds having been obtained by the owner, NUE stepped in with a maximum loan for the internal refurbishment. Eleven units were completed and all had been let within days of being marketed.

If the story of the Arcadian demonstrated dramatically the value of partnership and the efficacy of NUE in a

specific instance, the wider benefits of the scheme can be just as important.

Derelict buildings are vulnerable to vandalism and their very presence can contribute to a depressing, if not downright menacing, environment in our towns and villages.

"Poor condition can affect the capital value of a property by as much as 18 per cent," said Mr Grimshaw.

"Derelict buildings can cause an anti-social problem for police through copper and lead theft, while we lose quite a lot to fire."

Another, perhaps less immediately apparent, gain from NUE is the fact the return to use of so many proper-

ties, theoretically at least, reduces the necessity to build more houses on Kent's rapidly dwindling green acres.

Such is the positive tenor to the project that NUE has inspired similar ventures elsewhere in the country, notably with the West of England Partnership, a union of four local authorities centred on Bristol, and the Welsh Assembly.

Most impressively, perhaps, the Government's National Empty Homes Loans Fund follows the NUE template of offering loans to developers and owners.

Mr Grimshaw, though, is keen to

keep things in context. "No Use Empty is part of the solution – but not all of it," he said. "Fifty-eight per cent of what we do is advice and guidance."

Perhaps the only real question about the scheme is whether public funds should be used to help developers make potentially handsome profits from the rejuvenation of empty properties.

Mr Grimshaw has no such doubts. "No Use Empty is a beacon for best practice. We're stepping into the role of the banks, and the scheme brings about regeneration, jobs and homes for local people. It gives a fair bit of value back, to be honest."

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In focus



Can turkey begin to rule the roost all-year-round?

It's the classic Christmas dinner; a roast turkey with all the trimmings. But is its position at the top table now under threat? **Joe Bill** goes down to some of Kent's farms to find out

LOOK around any supermarket or farm shop at this time of year and around the freezer compartments will be a sea of heads, bobbing up and down; shoppers trying to find the perfect centrepiece to their family Christmas dinner.

Look around certain fields across the county right now and you'll see an ocean of heads, bobbing up and down; the creatures likely to end up in those shoppers' baskets.

Because while the county is bracing itself for a period of over-indulgence and parties, December is not a good time to be a turkey.

Not, of course, that they'll be aware of that. They won't have ever seen a Christmas before – nor a December for that matter.

Turkey farmers will have received their hatchlings around mid-June – and come Christmas time they are at the right weight and ready for the chop... closely followed by the pot.

With each bird commanding in excess of £50, they can be a profitable business.

But competition at this time of year is fierce; not only from rival farmers, but from rival meats.

While turkey remains the traditional dish of choice, there is an increasing demand for alternatives for the Christmas dinner table – whether that is conventional alternatives such as beef, chicken or pork, to a rising appetite for game, duck or goose.

Not that any are likely to knock turkey from its platform just yet.

"There's not a chance", said Clive

Wreathall, owner of Appledore Turkeys.

"Turkey is still the most popular meat at Christmas by a long, long way.

"Families still have turkey because it is different. Everyone can eat beef, chicken or pork all-year-round; the turkey is for Christmas – and long may that continue."

The farmer rears 20,000 of the birds every year.

He is convinced that not only does it trump rivals on tradition and taste, but is also a healthier option too.

"Although we produce them solely for the Christmas market," he explains, "turkey meat is one of the fastest growing meats being consumed in the UK today. Its market share – in terms of percentage and volume – grows every year.

"It's the healthiest low-fat meat you

can buy. If you take a skinless breast of turkey, it is a lot less fatty than chicken. It's a good, solid, white meat and people are starting to have it more throughout the year."

Certainly there is no sign of our appetite for turkey waning quite yet.

Bernard Matthews – the famous Norfolk turkey producer – ramps up production at its base by slaughtering an eye-watering 50,000 birds a day in the run-up to Christmas, for mass market distribution.

In total, some 10 million are eaten in the UK at Christmas time while 60 million are eaten in the US for Thanksgiving – the festival where turkey is once again the bird of

popular choice. The question for many is whether turkey can ever make inroads when the tinsel is packed away and the sun is out.

So far, the answer is not convincing.

Chris Rook is owner of popular Kent family butchers JC Rook and Sons.

He believes while the turkey remains dominant at this time of the year, its impact outside of the season is minimal.

Rooks will sell more than 5,000 turkeys this month from its high street shops across the county.

Mr Rook said: "We will most probably sell more turkeys this Christmas than we have in previous years."

"It is still very strong and is still a traditional Christmas food."

"I think lots of people, including me, want to have turkey just once a year to keep it as something special."

"Although we do sell it 52 weeks of the year, it is in very small amounts. We only sell about 40 birds per week across the county. That's not a lot."



GOBBLED UP: Andrew Wreathall, of Appledore Turkeys, at his farm on the Romney Marsh, where it gets more than 20,000 turkeys oven-ready for Christmas

One farm keen to shake off the idea turkey is only for Christmas, is Coombe Farm in Sutton Valence.

Owner Anthony Fleck has been in the business for more than 30 years and rears 1,200 turkeys on his fruit farm every year.

He said: "Being a fruit farmer in the summer it fits in quite well for the winter. But we actually sell a reasonable amount now at Easter too."

"A lot of our customers will come to us asking if we have anything in the freezer for the Easter and spring period."

"That's good news from our point

“ Although we do sell it 52 weeks of the year we only sell about 40 birds per week across the county. At Christmas we'll sell nearer 5,000 ”

Chris Rook, owner of countywide butchers JC Rook and Sons

of view and I would say more people are beginning to eat it year-round rather than just Christmas – especially if the meat is of good quality."

While turkey may appear to be a quintessentially British bird, they originated in Mexico. It is believed they first came to Britain in 1526, thanks to Yorkshireman William Strickland who bought six birds from American Indian traders.

And despite Henry VIII being the first English king to enjoy a turkey meal, Edward VII is given credit for turning it in a mainstream, fashionable choice. Most likely purely by his

patronage.

Like all food industries, however, many suppliers have struggled to meet the demands of the major retailers – and the supermarket giants who occupy its top table.

With supermarkets desperate to drive the best possible deals, the squeeze on profit margins becomes intense. All too often quality comes as a cost.

The pressure from supermarkets is one reason Coombe Farm won't deal with chain stores, instead only selling direct to customers or local farm shops.

Anthony Fleck has been running

Coombe Farm since 1980, having taken over from his father.

"There is a reasonable margin on turkeys from the cost raising them to the money they sell for," he explains, "but the margins being forced down on farmers is the reason we don't deal with supermarkets."

"They will push the price down to the bare minimum."

"We do sell soft fruit to supermarkets and we do make some money at it, but we wouldn't if we sold our turkeys to them."

Coombe Farm rears Kelly Bronze turkeys as part of a franchise which

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was set up by farmer and businessman Derek Kelly, who brought the species over from Oregon in the US.

Most of the turkeys are sold for £60 to £70 depending on weight.

Mr Fleck added: "There is still the same number of people going for turkey at Christmas, although there is probably a bit more interest in goose."

"But even though ours are free range, and fetch a bit more money, comparing the price of beef or lamb with turkey you will be paying far more for the same weight."

Mr Fleck allows the windfall of his

fruit stock to be gobbled up by the turkeys, which he says helps to make a more natural and organic product.

He adds: "That's the point about a lot of turkey that has been produced in the past – if it is force-fed, the quality of the meat is not very good."

"More people are switched onto the fact they want a quality piece of meat, and you will get that with a bronze turkey that has been raised free range."

"We use no drugs in the food or anything like that."

"If top chefs like Delia Smith are recommending Kelly Bronzes, then

hopefully it will go a long way to making sure more turkeys are raised this way."

The hatchlings arrive at the farm in mid-June less than a day old, before being nurtured indoors for five weeks then released onto the farm to live free range.

Not that it's a particularly long life.

Mr Fleck adds: "Bronze turkeys take a little longer to get their weight so they are slightly slower growing than other types of turkey."

"We get them in mid-June and by the time we get to the end of Novem-

ber or beginning of December they will have reached their target weight.

"The turkeys are reared to the highest best practice standards and they have the most natural life possible. They love pecking the remains of the soft fruit, especially the blackberries."

Turkeys are the ideal weight for slaughter after about 26 weeks.

But the short lifespan of the bird has been called into question by a number of animal protection groups which believe it is cruel to kill them at such a young age.

Tonbridge-based charity Animal Aid is opposed to all forms of animal slaughter and fights against the intensive breeding of birds.

A spokesman said: "Having secretly filmed inside nine randomly-selected British slaughterhouses in recent years, we found illegal cruelty taking place in eight of them."

"Most British turkeys are raised in filthy, crowded conditions and slaughtered at just a few months old, so live a short and miserable life before meeting a bloody end."

"Animal Aid encourages everyone to spare a turkey's life this Christmas and consider a delicious meat-free alternative instead."

Not that Coombe Farm falls into that bracket. It prides itself on being open to its customers.

Mr Fleck, who studied fruit farming at nearby Hadlow College, said: "In the past people didn't want to know about that sort of thing, but they now ask how we kill them and how they are raised."

PAGE 22 »

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"That's fair comment and we welcome it.

"It's all about doing it properly and improving customer relationships so they know how the turkey has been brought up and looked after properly before being humanely dispatched."

He also stressed that hygiene standards were immensely important to raising turkeys.

He said: "We only use top-quality feed and straw, and the water must be kept fresh and clean.

"I am sure there are still farms that don't treat turkeys properly, but we invite any of our customers to come down to the farm and see the way we raise them free range.

"We have nothing to hide – and that is how it should be."

Appledore Turkeys is another large farm in the county which specialise in rearing and selling the bird for the Christmas market.

From their 1,000-hectare farm, the Wreathall family produce turkeys

“I am sure there are farms that don't treat turkeys properly, but we invite our customers to come to the farm and see the way we raise them free range”

Anthony Fleck, owner of Coombe Farm in Sutton Valence



Turkey facts...

Approximately 10 million turkeys are eaten in the UK at Christmas while 60 million are eaten in the US at Thanksgiving.

Female turkeys are called hens and don't gobble. It is the males, known as a tom, which gobble – usually used to attract females. Hens make clucking and chirping noises.

Wonder why you fall asleep after that meal? Eating turkey can often make you feel tired because the meat contains tryptophan, an amino acid the body uses to make serotonin, a neurotransmitter in the brain that helps regulate sleep.

Turkeys have periscopic vision, which allows it to see objects that are not in its direct line of sight. By rotating its head, the turkey has a 360-degree field of vision.

When a turkey becomes frightened, agitated, excited or ill, the exposed skin on its head and neck can change from its usual pale pink or bluish grey color to red, white, or blue.

A turkey's stomach, called the gizzard, contains tiny stones that the bird has previously swallowed to help in the breakdown of food for digestion as birds do not have teeth.

Domesticated turkeys cannot fly, but wild ones can go a short distance at a speed of 55mph, while they can run at 20mph.

The flap of skin that hangs over the turkey's beak is called its snood.

for more than 150 independent butchers across the south east.

Clive Wreathall and brother Andrew are the latest to run the farm which has been in the family for 70 years.

"We do sell directly from the farm because a lot of people still like coming to the farm to pick their turkey up," he says.

"It is a traditional thing to do."

Though the farm is free range and the birds are treated well, Mr Wreathall is clear that turkey rearing is still very much a business.

He said: "The object of the exercise is to make money out of the business, and as long as we make money we will keep doing it. The market gets tougher every year. All our competitors improve every year, so we have to maintain and improve our product and the service to our customers.

"It's a competitive market, and if you are good enough to survive you will and if you aren't you go. Every industry is competitive and tough at the moment. And that is how it should be."

At its peak, Appledore Turkeys employs 150 people to rear, pluck and oven-ready some 20,000 birds each year. The birds are fed on a cereal-based diet of 70 per cent wheat, mixed with soya, maize, vitamins and minerals.

Mr Wreathall added: "We have been doing this for a number of years now, and although I wouldn't say we have it perfected, we are very close.

"I live on the farm where the turkeys are reared and we really look after them.

"We love the business, it's what we do, and we try to improve as we can."

It may not be a great time of year for the turkey, but it certainly is for those looking forward to their traditional festive meal this season.

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Our seasonal gifts of goodwill

Fed-up with being pestered for charitable donations this time of year? **Dr Eddy Hogg**, researcher at the centre for philanthropy at the University of Kent, explains why we're ripe for the picking at Christmas.



DECEMBER is a busy month – a time to dig out the Christmas lights, decorate the tree, hit the shops and make plans to eat, drink and be merry.

But amidst all this activity we find time to fit in one more task – responding to the many charity Christmas appeals launched during the festive season.

Some of these will be from organisations we already support, while others are from new charities hoping to tempt us to extend our generosity.

Charities ask for donations because they need money to do their good work and because they know we are generous and many of us will respond.

Over half of British adults donate to charity in an average month, and most of those who give donate around £10 a month, making us the sixth most generous country in the world, according to recent research by the Charities Aid Foundation.

And we are more generous at Christmas.

At a time when demand on our

money is higher – spending on gifts for family and friends, and on food and drink, increases markedly over the Christmas period – it is remarkable December is the month that sees the biggest spike in charitable giving.

When charity Christmas appeals land on our doormats, we are faced with decisions of who to give to.

Research we have conducted in the centre for philanthropy at the University of Kent finds that giving decisions are driven by a range of factors.

The most significant factor is personal taste; we give to the things that chime with our own preferences and the kind of people and issues that we care most about.

Secondly, we give to charitable causes that connect to our personal experiences; for example we often give to organisations based in the places where we grew up or now live, and we support research into health issues that affect us and our loved ones.

Donors are smart, too. We want to be sure our donations will be spent well and make a meaningful difference so we give to organisations that can reassure us our money will be used efficiently and wisely.

Charities fundraise at Christmas because it works.

And fundraising is important because we know

the main reason people give is because they are asked.

Few of us wake up in the morning thinking: "What shall I give to today?"

We need to be prompted – to be shown the need and asked to contribute. The more people are asked, and the more they are asked for, the more they give.

Fundraising is also effective; data collected by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations shows that for every £1 charities invest in fundraising, they raise £5.45.

Christmas is a time of generosity towards friends and family.

We make time and effort to pick perfect presents for our loved ones even when some of them don't really need anything more, because gifts are an expression of our connection to, and concern for, that person.

Charity appeals are an equally important part of the holiday season.

They ensure our generosity extends to helping those most in need, enabling us to connect to, and show concern for, our fellow citizens at Christmas time.



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Plans to cut outpatient facilities will 'benefit' the service, says health trust

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

HEALTH chiefs have begun consulting on plans to slash the number of outpatient facilities across east Kent.

Proposals include cutting the 15 clinics, which are based at hospitals and health centres, down to just six main hubs spread across the east of the county.

Under the plans, Swale will not have any outpatient services and instead patients will have to travel out of the district to access them.

But bosses at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUF) insist they are proposing to provide enhanced outpatient facilities, with more than 80 per cent of patients being within a 20-minute drive of one of the six sites.

Currently, there are services in Sheerness, Sittingbourne, Faversham, Herne Bay, Canterbury, Ashford, New Romney, Hythe, Folkestone, Dover and Deal.

Two facilities are available in both Whitstable and Margate.

The trust, however, is planning to offer outpatients services on six sites: at Estuary View Medical Centre in Whitstable and at hospitals in Canterbury, Margate, Ashford, Folkestone and Dover.

It is also looking to offer appointments earlier in the morning, in the evening and on Saturday mornings, as part of the new plans.

A spokesman for the trust said if proposals were agreed, it would mean less travelling for most patients and improved facilities.

It would also, the trust said, give patients the opportunity to see a consultant, have any diagnostic tests carried out and, with those results, agree a treatment plan, all on the same day.

"Patients have told us they would prefer to see their consultant, have their tests and agree a treatment plan

in one visit, but we can only make these improvements by investing in modernising a smaller number of sites, creating 21st century facilities, with state-of-the-art diagnostics," said EKHUF chief executive Stuart Bain.

The trust stressed the overhaul would be of "huge benefit" to outpatients. It said it would be able to offer better facilities to help doctors diagnose patients faster, assisting in the development of a one-stop approach.

Initial fears were raised by Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson of a lack of services in his constituency.

But he told KoS he had spoken to the trust after being contacted by worried constituents and his fears had been allayed.

"The consultation document refers to the withdrawal of services from Sittingbourne Memorial and Sheppey Community Hospital," he said.

"Having contacted the trust it has emerged the only outpatient service they offer at our two local hospitals is neurology, and that service is not affected by the proposal.

"I am happy to confirm, therefore, that the proposal will not affect either Sittingbourne Memorial or Sheppey Community Hospital."

Others living in the area, however, are less than convinced.

Ken Rogers, who has been leading the fight to keep Faversham's minor injuries unit open, urged people to get involved in the consultation.

"The outpatients' review could possibly result in the closure of the department at the health centre and make Estuary View, Whitstable, the centre for outpatients for Faversham, Whitstable and Herne Bay," he said.

"Campaigners will not be letting up in their fight to retain and improve health services in Faversham."

Healthwatch Kent, the new organisation set up to act as the voice for patients in the county, also encouraged people to take part in the consultation.

Its chief executive, Steve Innet,



CHANGE: Closure of some outpatient sites would see (from top) the William Harvey Hospital, Buckland Hospital, Kent and Canterbury Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital take on more outpatient services

said: "We are pleased East Kent University Hospitals Foundation Trust is undertaking a public consultation to help it plan for improvements to its outpatients services.

"We will be working with the review to ensure the consultation is robust and fully represents all the communities affected. We would encourage people to participate in the

consultation and share their views."

A series of presentations is taking place over three months by the trust which the public is invited to attend.

To see the consultation document go to <http://bit.ly/1btIRRI> and to have your say go to <http://bit.ly/1FTlvi>

To contact Healthwatch Kent email info@healthwatchkent.co.uk or call free on 0808 808 0102.

10 public meetings are being held as part of the consultation.

December 17 – Hythe

The Imperial Hotel, Princes Parade, 9.30am to 12.30pm,

January 7 – Dover

The Ark, Noah's Ark Road, 10am to 1pm,

January 15 – Whitstable

Seasalter Christian Centre, 52-62 Faversham Road, 6pm to 9pm,

January 20 – Folkestone

The Grand Hotel, The Leas, 2pm to 5pm,

January 24 – Margate

Global Generation Church, Unit 2, Westwood Industrial Estate, Strassbourg Street, 9.30am to 12.30pm,

January 29 – Herne Bay

The Kings Hall, Beacon Hill, 6.30pm to 9.30pm,

February 6 – Deal

Deal Town Hall, High Street, 6pm to 9pm,

February 13 – Faversham

The Alexander Centre, Preston Street, 9.30am to 12.30pm,

February 19 – Ashford

Holiday Inn Ashford Central, Canterbury Road, 2pm to 5pm,

February 25 – Canterbury

St Mary's Bredin Church, 59 Nunnery Fields, 2pm to 5pm

County's current outpatient facilities:

Ashford:

William Harvey Hospital

Canterbury:

Kent and Canterbury Hospital

Deal: Queen Victoria Hospital

Dover: Buckland Hospital

Faversham

Faversham Health Centre

Folkestone:

Royal Victoria Hospital

Herne Bay: Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital

Hythe: St Saviours Hospital

Margate: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital

Margate: Spencer Wing at QEOM Hospital

New Romney:

New Romney Clinic

Sheppey: Sheppey Hospital

Sittingbourne: Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital

Whitstable:

Estuary View Medical Centre

Whitstable: Whitstable and Tankerton Hospital

Whitstable: Whitstable and Tankerton Hospital

Whitstable: Whitstable and Tankerton Hospital

Whitstable: Whitstable and Tankerton Hospital

Whitstable: Whitstable and Tankerton Hospital

Six proposed sites:

Ashford:

William Harvey Hospital

Canterbury:

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Dover: Buckland Hospital

Folkestone:

Royal Victoria Hospital

Margate: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital

Whitstable:

Estuary View Medical Centre



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Secondary school success can't hide primary failings

THIS week, the Government's school inspectors, Ofsted, has published its annual report on school performance. In addition, the Department for Education has published its SAT Key Stage 2 (primary age seven to 11) results for schools across the country.

For Kent and Medway, both brought dismal reading for parents.

In the Ofsted league table, Medway ended up 151 out of 152 local authorities. Kent was 133 – a little better, but nowhere near good enough.

In Key Stage 2 SAT results, Medway came seventh from bottom in the country, with 71 per cent of pupils achieving Level 4 (the national benchmark) in reading, writing and maths, a slight increase on 2012, when Medway came bottom nationally.

Kent continues its fairly consistent position of being just below the national average.

These appalling results, especially for Medway, contrast sharply with the secondary experience.

Here, Medway came an impressive 27 in the national table of Ofsted and Kent 54 in 2012, both being success stories.

At GCSE, both Kent and Medway are well above the national average.

These pose the key question: why is it that, in both Kent and Medway, primary school outcomes are so poor overall, compared with very good progress in our secondary schools?

One key difference is the primary schools are mainly controlled by the local authorities, while most secondary schools are academies.

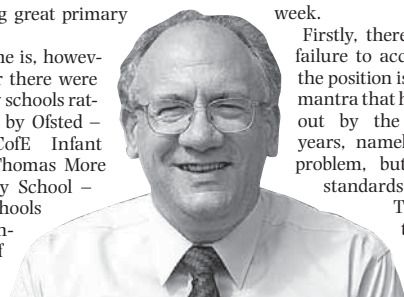
However, there are too many examples of good local authorities whose primary schools perform well, and too many high performing Kent controlled secondary schools for this to be the explanation.

Contraventionally, it could be that the selective system in both Kent and Medway does provide better overall outcomes – but to me there is a third explanation that best fits the bill.

Quite simply, the quality of the local authority is responsible for the performance of the schools they run, and in the case of Medway it is producing arguably the worst outcomes in the country.

None of this takes away from the many excellent head teachers and teachers who are running great primary schools.

The bottom line is, however, that last year there were just two Medway schools rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted – St Nicholas CofE Infant School and St Thomas More Catholic Primary School – and 12 good schools out of the 35 inspected, a total of 40 per cent, against a na-



Former head teacher **Peter Read** of Kent Independent Education Advice, looks at a difficult week for Medway's schools...



LOW MARKS: Peter Read, below, is concerned by Ofsted's findings in county

tional average of 78 per cent.

Five schools failed their Ofsted: 14 per cent against a national average of two per cent.

In Key Stage 2, five Medway schools had fewer than half their pupils achieving Level Four in reading, writing and maths. The lowest, Saxon Way Primary, is currently in special measures being 15th worst in the country, with just 23 per cent of pupils achieving the Level Four standard.

In Kent, King's Farm Primary in Gravesend achieved the same level (both schools are on track to become academies), but Tree Tops Academy in Maidstone, previously in special measures, was fourth worst in the country with just 15 per cent.

I consider the main issues with Medway Council are exemplified by statements from the cabinet member for education to the media this week.

Firstly, there is a complete failure to accept how awful the position is with the same mantra that has been trotted out by the authority for years, namely: there is no problem, but in any case standards are improving.

There are now three additional explanations.

Firstly, it is the fault of

the previous Labour government; secondly there was a complete change of management in the children's and adult services department 18 months ago which has already seen improvements in standards; and thirdly, this week's Key Stage 2 results for Medway would bear witness to that improvement (how wrong can you be?).

My own assessment is there is a complete complacency and unwillingness to accept the reality – that Medway Council is failing and has failed for years to provide an acceptable standard of education for too many of the children who have the misfortune to live in Medway.

At least Kent is trying, and there are some signs of improvement after the council accepted it was failing too many children two years ago and then came up with a robust plan to bring about improvement.

However, 14 failed schools and the above figures show there is still a long way to go.

Both authorities are seeing increasing numbers of their weaker primary schools become academies, under pressure from Government.

Sadly, each conversion is a clear sign the local council has failed to provide appropriate support to that school to stop it from failing.

What an indictment.

• Read more from Peter Read at www.kentadvice.co.uk

MEDWAY RESPONDS TO REPORT...

FINDINGS in education watchdog Ofsted's annual report saw Medway Council come out fighting once again.

But with statistics showing just 59 per cent of primary school children in Medway attended a school rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' last year – placing it second from bottom in the local authority league tables – it was going to be a hard battle to fight.

Particularly with the council's chequered past when it comes to primary education.

Earlier this year, Ofsted revealed two in every five primaries was not good enough. But education chiefs at Medway Council defended the findings stating the report covered last year and improvements had in fact since been made this year.

Mike O'Brien, lead portfolio holder for children's services, said: "This is an annual report that refers to historic figures from 2012, and we have done

much to bring about improvement in our primary schools since then.

"Ofsted has acknowledged this and has told us Medway's primaries have improved faster over the past year than the national rate of improvement across the country.

"This has led to an improvement in Ofsted ratings in primary schools and now more than 62 per cent of Medway's primary-age children are at a school rated 'good' or better.

"It is very pleasing this is being achieved."

"We fully appreciate there is more to do, and are committed to continuing the pace of improvement brought about since Medway brought in a new director of children services last year, a new lead portfolio holder for children services and a portfolio holder for educational improvement."

Leader of the Labour group on Medway Council, Vince Maple, called it unacceptable.

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WITH A bit of luck, one of the county's most popular seaside towns may, finally, install their Christmas lights this week.

But only after a drama which has played out in the corridors of power of local government – and then on the China high seas.

All of which threatened to leave the streets of Whitstable bare this festive season, without a communal set of twinkling lights to be seen.

It is all in stark contrast to years gone by, when thousands would pour onto the streets to watch stars from nearby Canterbury's pantomime flick the switch on the lights along its main thoroughfare, with music and fake snow pumped out to create a yuletide atmosphere.

So just what went wrong this year?

To the surprise of no-one, it ultimately comes down to money.

In an effort to cut costs, Canterbury City Council made the decision spending on festive illuminations would be slashed. Whitstable and Herne Bay would receive modest sums towards theirs, while the city itself would go without after no-one came forward prepared to take on the responsibility. The authority claimed it would save £56,000.

The council said it was stepping away from the process, so if the towns wanted to use the money allocated, they had to pay and install the lights themselves.

Enter the Whitstable Chamber of Commerce. With last year's lights in no fit state to be used again, it was forced to buy in a new set.

And the most cost-effective way was to order them in from China.

Then a problem occurred when the boat carrying them then got horrendously delayed – at one point it was feared the lights may not arrive until after Christmas Day itself.

But this week they finally docked at Felixstowe and now the race is on to get them installed as quickly as possible to bring a little festive cheer to the town. Although quite how quick that will be remains to be seen.

Brian Hitcham is the chamber's president. He told KoS this week why they had turned to China.

He said: "We have had to do something totally bespoke. The biggest problem has been we have been given a limited budget by the council [which was £18,500].

"We've kept it within budget. We started off with the idea of just replacing the ones that go across the road and on lamp posts, but couldn't buy them from this country because the costs were horrific.

"There is a UK supplier for these things, but they were 10 times the cost and with limited funds we couldn't afford that.

"We did try to source them from Kent first, and other UK suppliers, but the best deal was from China.

"The lights from last year were past their sell-by date and I am told that they had been patched up for years so they couldn't be used anymore.

"What people don't realise is the council told us there were no lights for Whitstable, but that there was this bit of money for us to use.

"It said that this money would disappear by the end of August if no-one came forward to claim it. So we stepped forward, otherwise the town



SHINE ON: Whitstable's Harbour Street is one of the roads earmarked for the Christmas lights... when they arrive

Illuminating tale of missing lights stretches all the way from China to cathedral city

“ This is one very real example of its impact. As the money goes down, we are going to have to take more decisions in order to protect services ”

John Gilbey, Canterbury council leader on impacts of cost-cutting

would have had no lights or money.

"So it's been frustrating to get quite so much flack, but you have to grin and bare it. I am hoping to get most of the items out as soon as possible."

He added: "We will get the lights installed as quickly as possible, but it won't be this weekend."

The lack of Christmas lights in the town centre has irritated both traders and residents alike.

Roland Birks is landlord at the Ship Centurion pub in the High Street.

He said: "It's disgraceful. The town has doubled in size during the last 15 years and the council are pleading

poverty and haven't got enough money to buy decent Christmas lights.

"And to have to go outside of the country to buy the lights is ridiculous."

The new illuminations include a series of Christmas trees and wire-lit angels to line houses along Oxford Street, the High Street, Harbour Street and Tankerton Road.

However, this year there will be no lights dangling across the roads as council red tape would have sent the costs spiralling.

Mr Hitcham said: "If we do anything with Kent County Council (KCC) like attaching lights to lamp posts or hang-

ing them across the road, because of the various KCC regulations, the installation costs wipe out all the money.

"For example: just to put them across the street you would need two brackets on each side of the road, and you have to have each of those brackets individually stress-tested at £40 a time. So that's £160 before you have got anywhere near buying the lights or putting them up.

"I think using Serco [the council's contracted maintenance company] cost £15,000 to £20,000-per-year just to put the lights up and down.

"Well that is obviously unsustainable, so we had to buy new ones."

To avoid involving KCC property, it has had to obtain permission from local premises and building owners to install the decorations on their roofs.

"We've had to do something different, without using KCC property," Mr Hitcham adds. "We also had to get something we could use for the foreseeable future, so we can use the flag-pole brackets for flags in the summer and make it look great at festival time.

"Putting them up there also means less chance they will be vandalised; it also removes any potential problems with the highways people."

Now the race is on to get the lights into place. But the chamber is relying on local traders to help put them up.

Mr Hitcham said: "We will find out how many people will do it when we turn up on their door step with the lights. It obviously doesn't help with it being quite so late in the month because people are busy. How many will go up I don't know, but I am hoping people will make the effort."

Owner of the distinct, pink, Wheelers Oyster Bar in the heart of the town, Delia Pitt, says that though the process has been troublesome she sympathises with the chamber.

She said: "With Canterbury wanting to wash their hands of it, we don't have their expertise in running it.

"I feel sorry for the chamber. The council has done its usual trick of handing out a pittance before saying we will get no more money and no more help. It's taken quite a lot of organising and, unfortunately, China was the cheapest so that's what we've had to go with them."

Canterbury City Council has said the Christmas decorations were a necessary cut as it looks to find £5.5 million of savings by 2017, as a result of a reduced government grant.

Leader of the council, John Gilbey, added: "Christmas lights were a nice thing to do when we had money, but now they are not of sufficient quality to make a difference and there is simply no cash to invest in new displays.

"Much has been said about cuts in council funding.

"This is one very real example of its impact. As the money goes down, we are going to have to take more difficult decisions not to do things, in order to protect important frontline services and the services we are required to provide by law.

"It's not an easy message, but I think people need to be prepared to see more of the things they like disappearing in the years ahead."

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Restoration team gets sinking feeling after funding is pulled

THE team behind the restoration of one of the small ships which saved the lives of thousands of Allied troops during the Dunkirk evacuation in 1940 face a gloomy Christmas after running so low on funds the whole project teeters on a knife-edge.

Just weeks after celebrating the vessel's return to the county, the Medway Queen Preservation Trust insists work will continue – albeit at a slower pace.

The paddle steamer, once a leisure craft on the River Medway, was called upon to help the war effort.

She rescued around 7,000 troops from the beaches of Dunkirk, during many trips across the English Channel, playing such a key role she was dubbed the Heroine of Dunkirk.

But after the war the ship's popularity waned and she fell into disrepair.

It sparked a major push to secure funds for her restoration – with millions of pounds being awarded in grants.

However, after the ship spent months being carefully restored in Bristol and towed back to Gillingham pier, the lottery and regional development money it had been awarded ran out.

Now the 14 or so working on the vessel look likely to lose their jobs – including apprentices who were honing their skills on the craft.

All the work carried out so far was thanks to £1.6 million of EU funding from the Interreg Heroes 2C programme and £1.9m from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Despite the generous amounts, the nature of the work involved meant it was only ever going to pay to get the Bristol work done and bring her back to Medway.

Now more is needed – much more.

It is estimated a further £3m is required to finally get the Medway Queen on the water under her own power. If the Medway Queen Preservation Trust fails to get more money, the project will be mothballed.

Just to get through next year will need £500,000.

Chris Murphy reports on another twist in the long-running saga regarding paddle steamer the Medway Queen – one which offers a serious threat to the ship ever sailing again...

Pictures: BOB STOKES/TARYN HARRISON



HOMECOMING: The Medway Queen has recently returned to Kent after undergoing extensive restoration in Bristol thanks to EU and lottery funding

It has heightened fears from some it could end up once again rotting at the end of the pier.

The trust has been working hard to come up with ways of bringing more money in – the PayPal button on its website has triggered contributions of £100,000. But she still needs an interior, a boiler, engine parts and a host of other mechanical work.

The 180ft paddle steamer was built in 1924 to take holidaymakers around Kent. It was commissioned by the Navy in 1939 and was one of the last to make the hazardous crossing to rescue troops at Dunkirk.

A short life of ferrying passengers

followed until it was decided she should be retired. She was left on the river bank to simply rot away.

Richard Halton from the society confirmed: "These are dark times, but the fight goes on."

Minutes after a committee meeting to discuss her future, held on Monday night, he told us: "We are putting together our plans for next year to take the project forward and keep going on the restoration."

"Obviously, what we are not going to be doing is moving forward at the same speed."

He added: "We will not have huge numbers of people working here next

A SHORT HISTORY

AFTER being built in 1924, the Medway Queen worked anonymously as a passenger ferry, taking people along the Medway and Thames Estuary.

The Dunkirk evacuation of 1940 propelled her into the public eye, but she soon fell from view once more as she continued working as a ferry.

As the decades rolled by, costs to keep her afloat soared and the paddle steamer was replaced in 1963 by newer and more efficient vessels.

In 1987, she was acquired as a sunken wreck by the Medway Queen Preservation Society.

After years of public fundraising, work was still painfully slow. She was in bits with the more valuable parts stashed in secret locations.

Work was boosted with the lottery money and the Heroes 2C programme which gave trainees the opportunity to participate and learn essential trades on the way.

year because the funding for them has been terminated, as we expected.

"They did the job that was intended. In that respect, it is all going ahead as scheduled."

He agreed the trust is now looking for new and considerable funds, adding: "We are looking for funds at any level. If someone comes along and says 'here's a fiver' we are not going to say no."

"We do need to find a lot more. It is a bit of a finger in the wind exercise, but it's going to cost around £3m.

"When you think about it, that's pretty much what it's cost so far and our guess is we are about halfway through the project.

"So we would like to see personal donations, but also corporate sponsorship and I would invite them to come forward to sort out a package that would be beneficial to all parties."

Mr Halton said there is no doubt the Medway Queen will sail again.

He told us: "It will be completed, but the question is the time frame.

"We have been telling people for years the speed we complete the job depends entirely on raising the fund.

"If you have the money you can do the job. The faster we get the funding in, the faster we can get the job completed, it's as simple as that.

"What we are doing now is putting together some more detailed plans for more funding applications, but that won't be completed until some time early next year.

"We have outlines to this plan now, but it needs to be refined."

The hull has been rebuilt using traditional methods close to the original 1924 design.

Mr Halton said: "We will return the ship to working order and show her in pre-war condition.

"The hull is of riveted construction; it has one extra bulkhead added to improve its watertight resilience and provision has been made for modern toilets and other services.

"We have to fit out the interior of the ship as well as the upper deck.

"We need to complete assembly of the main engine as well as restore the auxiliary machinery that it needs in order to function.

"Our priorities will be the aft saloon which can be used as a dining space."

• **For more information and to donate, call 01645 575717 or visit www.medwayqueen.co.uk.**



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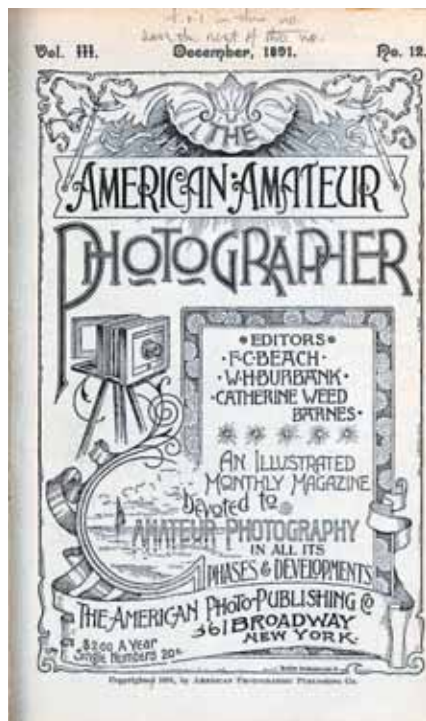
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Century old negatives, taken by the pioneering Victorian photographer Catharine Weed Barnes, offer glimpse into how the county looked during the time of Charles Dickens, reports **Chris Murphy**



SNAPPER: Catharine Weed Barnes, right, provided images for a book on Charles Dickens, penned by her husband



AN ARCHIVE of fascinating images of places in Kent frequented by Charles Dickens at the turn of the 20th century has been found.

The material, more than 100-years-old, provides a fascinating glimpse into how things would have looked when the world-famous author lived in the county.

Dickens, who grew up in Chatham, returned with his family to live in Gads Hill Place, in Higham, in 1857.

He would live there until his death, at the age of just 58, in 1870.

Famed photographer Catharine Weed Barnes put together two books on Dickens, published in 1904.

A pioneer behind the lens, she lived in Golden Green, near Tonbridge, and died in 1913.

Now the archive of her original material, long thought lost, has been rediscovered by the Kent Archaeological Society (KAS).

It forms part of some 10,000 glass-plate negatives of landscapes and historic buildings she took during her 27-year career.

More than 300 of them illustrated two travel books written by her husband, Henry Snowden Ward, and published in 1904.

The Real Dickens Land described locations in Kent and elsewhere that were the settings for Charles Dickens' novels, while the Canterbury Pilgrimages features places visited by medieval pilgrims making their way to Thomas Becket's shrine.

The negatives of these historic photos were thought to have been lost forever – until a recent discovery at the Kent Archaeological Society's Library in Maidstone Museum.

There, while scanning and collating thousands of glass plates, volunteer Ann Pinder came across a view of the ballroom at the Bull Inn, Rochester – now the Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel – which were credited to Catharine Weed Barnes Ward.

After further investigation, the connection to the Real Dickens Land was established, with 52 negatives matching images used in the book being discovered.

Next, the group identified the negatives of 23 of the 33 photographs taken in Canterbury for the Canterbury Pilgrimages, and collated more than 100 other negatives of Kent scenes that circumstantial evidence suggests were her work.

The negatives had not been identified before due to an arson attack on Maidstone Museum in 1977, in which about 10 per cent of the KAS' books and other collections stored in a room next to the one where the fire started, were damaged.

Fortunately, they had only recently been revalued and reinsured.

The visual records collection alone consists of some 20,000 images in various formats and dates back to the early 18th century.

No-one knows how many glass negatives were beyond repair and had to be thrown away when the collection was salvaged, but hundreds were saved.

Unfortunately, when they were cleaned and repacked after the fire they were rearranged into 'place' and 'subject' categories and their original boxes were discarded, along with any vital papers they may have contained

“Catharine did much to further the cause of photography as a suitable profession for women. She was too good a photographer to make mistakes”

Dr Margaret Denny, lecturer in photographic history in Chicago

Dickens' world rediscovered in long-lost photos

saying when and by whom the pictures were taken.

Mrs Pinder explained: “Some of the negatives were scorched and water-stained, but their images could still be seen.”

The images of the Dickens locations are important because they were taken less than 40 years after he died in June 1870, and show them much as they were when he wrote his novels.

Furthermore, the Real Dickens Land was the first book about Dickens to be fully illustrated with photographs. Glass-plate negatives were then in common use, becoming obsolete in the late 1920s.

By coincidence, the cache has come to light during a revival of interest in the photographer's achievements among photographic historians in both America and the UK, and soon after the Real Dickens Land was re-published.

Dr Margaret Denny, lecturer in photographic history at Columbia College, Chicago, hailed the discovery as “exciting news”.

She said: “At a time when Victorian women's roles held firmly to the do-

mestic, Catharine set a model for women through her photographic imagery, writings and public speaking in America and Great Britain.”

For Professor Elizabeth Edwards, director of the Photographic History Research Centre at Leicester's De Montfort University and author of *The Camera as Historian*, the find was “massively exciting” adding: “Catharine did much to further the cause of photography as a suitable profession for women.”

“I especially like her picture of the Pickwick Room in the Leather Bottle pub – all those images on the wall – and the hugely long exposure, leaving the ghosts of people, perhaps Kentish labourers, who walked through her frame. She was too good a photographer to make mistakes with focus and exposure. The clarity of the negative is superb.” (Image upper right).

Mrs Weed Barnes was born in New York in 1851.

In 1886, aged 35, she began studying photography, intending to make a career in a male-dominated profession.

Some medical ‘experts’ even considered that such “advanced learn-

ing” would overtax young women “before their brains are sufficiently developed”.

She joined a photographic society at a time when few of them accepted women members, one reason being the prospect of women developing their negatives in darkrooms also used by men was considered positively scandalous, especially if they were given their own latchkeys for admission to the darkrooms.

Overcoming prejudice, she rose to the top of her profession.

She specialised in travel photography and her pictures of landscapes and buildings of historical importance, many associated with great writers and their works, were published in countless books and periodicals and shown during her lectures to photographic societies.

In 1890, she joined the staff of *American Amateur Photographer* magazine in New York.

Meanwhile, in London, her future husband, Henry Snowden Ward, was editing and publishing his new magazine, *The Practical Photographer*, and had become an authorita-



FRAMED: Ann Pinder, centre left, uncovered the negatives by chance in Maidstone Museum, with some pictures showing Rochester during the time that author Charles Dickens, above, lived in nearby Higham

tive writer and lecturer on the works of Chaucer, Dickens and Shakespeare.

In January 1892, possibly for the first time, they met at her office in New York.

Later that year she spent several months touring England and Scotland, taking 1,500 photographs.

In November 1892, she surprised her friends in America by announcing her engagement, to Mr Ward, a man who was described in the New York Times as "a gentleman of cultivated tastes and an enthusiastic photographer".

They were married in July 1893 and moved to Kent.

Mr Snowden Ward joined the Kent Archaeological Society, built a rifle range in his garden for Hadlow Scouts and Hadlow Church Lads' Brigade, and supported the bell-ringers at St Mary's, Hadlow, his parish church.

As specialists in travel photography the Wards were burdened with heavy cameras, tripods and boxes of fragile negatives wherever they went.

They travelled to distant and remote locations by train and carriage, starting their journeys at their local railway station at Tonbridge, four miles from home.

Their first joint venture was Shakespeare's Town and Times (1896), a book with 110 photographs, followed by the Shakespearean Guide to Stratford-on-Avon (1897), the Real Dickens Land, the Canterbury Pilgrimages, Photography for the Press and, in 1906, the Land of Lorna Doone.

In October 1911, after many years' success as a writer and lecturer and with engagements to fulfil as the Dickens Fellowship's

Special Commissioner in the USA and Canada, Mr Ward embarked on a five-month tour of the US to coincide with the Dickens centenary celebrations in February 1912.

An hour before he was due to lecture on 'Dickens in America' he was found unconscious in his bed at the National Arts Club, where he stayed while visiting New York.

Blood poisoning was diagnosed and, despite an emergency operation, he died soon afterwards, on December 7, 1911. His wife was at his bedside. He was just 46.

She returned to Golden Green, but due to the shock of his death, and failing health, she was unable to work again. She died at the house called Falklands on July 31, 1913, aged 62.

She was cremated and her ashes were interred in her husband's grave in New York. In May 1912, five months after her husband had died, she deposited 40 photographic prints, mostly of Canterbury, with the National Photographic Survey and Record's Kent portfolio in Maidstone Museum.

Most of the prints are identical to the pictures she took for the Canterbury Pilgrimages, so the negatives recently discovered at the KAS were probably given to the society when the prints were deposited at the museum.

It is possible, though, more negatives made for this and her other books await discovery, the society said.

In the Real Dickens Land, Mr Ward wrote: "We have left, in our negative boxes, a still greater number of equally interesting subjects."

Mr Ward is remembered in Hadlow by a plaque in St Mary's Church.



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GARDEN WORLD

Artist wants you to play a starring role in Queen Vic

Last year her photomosaic of Queen Elizabeth was viewed by thousands during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, but now Helen Marshall has been commissioned to recreate a 21-year-old Queen Victoria for a Kent shopping centre's 21st birthday... but she desperately needs your help, writes **Chris Murphy**.

THE artist behind the remarkable mosaic celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee is calling on KoS readers to help her next project – the creation of a giant image of Queen Victoria when she was aged just 21.

Helen Marshall shot to fame last year when she used 5,000 photos to create a mosaic of the Queen, commissioned by BBC South East.

It proved a real hit. When it went on display at the Turner Contemporary in Margate it pulled in 10,000 visitors in just two days.

Now she is to recreate an image of the young Queen Victoria, who made a number of visits to Tunbridge Wells.

It forms part of the celebrations taking place at the royal spa town's shopping centre, Royal Victoria Place, which is marking its 21st birthday by commissioning the work.

The Victoria at 21 project will see the artist create another of her trademark giant photomosaic portraits which, when finished, will contain thousands of pictures of local shoppers, schoolchildren and residents.

Tunbridge Wells was granted a royal charter in 1907 by King Edward VII – Queen Victoria's eldest son – and it was often commented that she held a special place in her heart for the town.

The artist said: "This is a chance for everyone to be part of our history.

"It seems appropriate we should honour our royal namesake with a piece of artwork which involves the entire community of the town she loved so much, providing a legacy for many years to come."

The artist's work is rooted in photography and design and she has a track record in collaborative projects.

Her portfolio includes commissions for Tate Britain, the Photographers' Gallery and a recent Arts Council-funded collaboration in Indonesia.

She told us: "We hope your readers can become part of this unique artwork by uploading their photos or contacting us so they can be featured.

"There are only a few weeks left to upload your photos and be part of this project.

"We will accept any kind of photo, particularly portraits or photos that relate to the area.

"Try to keep the subject personal, it makes it the most interesting, but they must be in portrait format only."

There is another way to join in too – by visiting a photo workshop hosted by the artist. A photo will be taken for free for the mosaic which will be unveiled early next year.

To take part, visit Royal Victoria



SNAPPY: Schoolchildren had their pictures taken to be included in Victoria's montage, commissioned by Royal Victoria Place in Tunbridge Wells, below



Place shopping centre on December 22 between 11am and 4pm.

The ambitious plan is to then take

“ There are only a few weeks left to upload photos and be part of this. We will accept any kind, particularly portraits or photos that relate to the area ”

Helen Marshall, explains what type of photos she is looking for



all the photographs and use their various shades to replicate an historical portrait provided by the National Portrait Gallery.

It takes thousands of photographs to create the image. Each has to be processed and checked before being assembled into specialist software to create a final mosaic on a grand scale.

Ms Marshall insists it's not as simple as letting the computer compose the final image, but involves a lot of trial and error and nights in the studio perfecting images to create a true photomosaic that works.

She added: "It is very important to take time to look at individual photos and their meanings; each photo tells a unique story, a memory and a legacy in itself.

"It is sometimes extraordinary the juxtapositions each photo takes in the final artwork, as different people's photos from different walks of life sit side by side.

"We want as many people as possible to submit their images.

"The artwork will be on show early in the year of 2014, brightening up the shopping centre and creating a spectacular event for people to attend and find themselves within the giant artwork."

Her Queen mosaic is currently on display at Gatwick Airport.

She added: "So far I have engaged with the public in the shopping centre taking their portraits and I ran workshops at local primary school St Augustine's; the pupils made crowns



and dressed as kings and queens for a day while having their portrait taken and they created fabulous collages.

"They really enjoyed themselves and everyone is looking forward to being part of this artwork."

Laurie Barton Wright, centre manager at the Royal Victoria, said: "This community art project, when completed at the end of this year, will form a piece of permanent artwork which will be displayed in Royal Victoria Place and act as a thank you for all the support that the local community of Tunbridge Wells has shown us over the past 21 years."

• For details on how you can get involved, visit the Victoria at 21 project at www.victoria-at21.com.



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What would you do with 7,000 teapots?

Sue Blayze opened Teapot Island in Yalding 10 years ago to house her amazing collection. She talks to **Greg Miles** about her obsession and how it all started.

TEN years ago Sue Blayze had what might seem the crazy idea of living in the middle of an exhibition space.

But then again that does not seem quite so out of the ordinary for a woman who has collected thousands of teapots – 7,166 to be precise – and simply wanted somewhere to show them off.

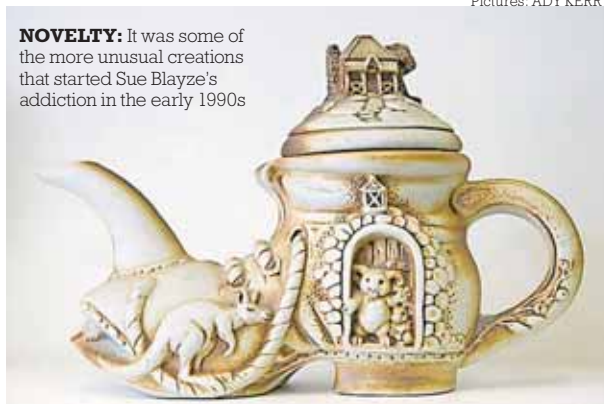
It was a decade ago that she opened up the mind-boggling Teapot Island in Yalding, where there are shelves upon shelves upon shelves of weird and wonderful teapots.

"My teapots are part of my house," said Sue. "As you walk in, you go across a corridor and to one side is my front door. If I answer my front door, I have to walk past all my teapots. We all treat it as normal."

What was originally the Riverside Diner was extended after she and her husband Keith bought it in 2003 as she needed somewhere to home her collection, which at that point was half of what it is today.

It started out as a small area to show them off and quickly grew

NOVELTY: It was some of the more unusual creations that started Sue Blayze's addiction in the early 1990s



Pictures: ADY KERRY

and expanded to the point where the original part of the building is no longer her home but a shrine to teapots.

It all started 30 years ago when she was given two teapots by her grandmother as a wedding present. But she was hardly a collector in her own eyes in those days, despite the hoard growing to three figures.

"At the start I only collected the traditionally-shaped round ones

– that was when I didn't have any more than 200," she said. "We then went on holiday to Devon and found a factory that made the novelty teapots and we started collecting them. That was in the early 90s."

She started off with several hundred hanging from the beams in her kitchen in her old house in Sidcup. That then extended to the bathroom and bedrooms as the collection grew to 3,500.

"I had them hanging from the beams in my kitchen – I had the lids stuck on. We then had shelves all over the house in all the bedrooms, the bathroom.

"You wouldn't have known about it from going in the lounge. I never put them in there, but the bedrooms and bathrooms weren't normal. I didn't really consider myself a collector, not like I am now. I had 200 then – it wasn't really that many."

"Everybody used to bring their friends round or their mums and would want to show them."

Now Teapot Island has coachloads of visitors through the year, although the pace naturally slows during the winter. It also crops up now and again in national newspapers and magazines about quirky places to visit or strange days out.

It also features on a new biscuit tin created by Marks & Spencer.

Collecting became a lifestyle as Sue, her husband Keith and son Luke, who manages the site, set off around the country seeking teapots. "It was a pleasure for us to do it."

Continued on page 39 »

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JOANNA slim attractive blue eyed blonde nurse, divorced with two teenagers, lots of love to give, looking for Mr Right, call me lets put the spark back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409097

SUE young at heart female, very adventurous and looking for no strings fun with mature man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409251

JAN 30yr old attractive lonely female looking for uncomplicated fun times only. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409107



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FLOR beautiful educated European blonde, articulate, seeking similar intelligent well-mannered mature gent to enjoy socialising, conversing and quality times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408293

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019

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JACQUELINE 79 widow, easy going, good listener, not slim or neurotic, OHAC, Sevenoaks, lonely would like gentleman's company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405533

ATTRACTIVE female, 53, N/S, 5ft 11in, looking for similar male, 50-55 who loves countryside, animals and is easygoing. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405421

AMANDA 44 blonde, blue eyed, very leggy, fun to be with, honest and caring seeking kind, considerate honest gent 74-79 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405315

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, Military/professional gent of high calibre. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405707

JOYCE 83, widow, WLTW gent with GSOH for days out, friendship, companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393607

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273

DELILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 11in, nice personality, trustworthy, kind, likes cinema, nights in, walks, music, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404751

KAREN blonde, long legged, many interests, very young looking, outgoing, adventurous, likeable, WLTW my soul mate could that be you? Pm call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407953

CHRIS 39yr old attractive well built sporty lady looking for tall, happy well built male to enjoy adult companionship, hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407935

CATHY divorced independent hopeless romantic seeking special gent to spend really nice times with, get to know and take it from there. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407623

LUCY truly wonderful brunette who really loves life, seeking sincere male for true friendship with a little romance thrown in for good measure. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407457

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4in, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403278

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101

SOPHIA beautiful, slim, sophisticated, loves living life to the full, enjoys many interests, seeks generous businessman who would appreciate a sensual woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407467

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large built, dog lover, easygoing, GSOH, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852

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DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium built female, any age for adult fun. Midway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408841

DAVE 45, 6ft, large build, ginger hair, green eyes, caring, OHAC, likes laugh, cinema, pubs, restaurants, walks, shopping, music, dvds, gardening, animals, seeks female of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405451

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jnr half full. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2in plus for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, easy going, seeks female 40 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541

ADAM 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404821

71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life, socialising, reading, strong tea, dogs, smoker but house trained seeks mature lady needing TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1 relationship with laid back, understanding female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11in, 11st, likes drives, walks, DV, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519

RETIRED male, 66, 6ft 2in, easy going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets, meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407317

MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft 10in, medium build, reliable, tactile, likes most things, seeks slim lady, let's go! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855

STEVE 61, OHAC, seeking relationship, outdoor type, homey, wanting mutual good relationship with sexy woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407835

ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355

STEVE 64, active, likes fishing, swimming, karaoke, honest, genuine, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405717

LIGHT hearted 58yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, lively, active, seeks pretty woman 29-50 for fun times. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393567

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2in, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405253

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7in, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372

CHRIS 68, 5ft 10in, 13st, frustrated widower, likes countrywestern music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271

55YR old male, average looks, GSOH, looking to meet similar lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271

JAMIE 6ft 1in, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 40-50, easy going for no strings fun, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408051

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium built female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

SEXY fireman, looking for love and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407883

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 11in, considerate, GSOH, easygoing, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417

TALL slim male, early 40's, seeks loving female, 29-39 to share the nice things in life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407065

PROFESSIONAL 45yr old male, one son, bored of the same thing, seeks lady for possible romance. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396234

BRIAN fun loving, easygoing, likes meals out, nights in, DVDs, seeks loving female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381449

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377297

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DISCREET kind man, 48, gentle, loving, genuine, seeking lady. Winstable. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406439

MIKE 39, 6ft 1in, large build, blue eyes, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406321

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for fun times and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381787



KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405

SLIM 67yr old male, fit, loving, 5ft 7in, blue eyes, independent, sociable, easygoing, enjoys usual, seeks honest lady to share it all with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401245

ALEC 57, likes keep fit, cycling, GSOH, seeks lady, 40 plus for fitness and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393463

CANTERBURY cyclist 50's, fit, seeks female of similar age and interests for uncomplicated fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405065

FUN fit, 60yr old male, seeks older, well-built female for no strings discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404971

RICHARD divorced, 61, N/S, likes classic cars, looking to meet nice lady for meals out, days out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406349

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LIGHT hearted 58yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, lively, active, seeks pretty woman 29-50 for fun times. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393567

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393719

VIC mid 60's medium build male, active, N/S, likes countryside, DIY, seeks compatible female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405085

51YR old male, dark hair, 6ft, N/S, good looking, likes finer things in life, seeks lady for fun times and TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399687

MIKE from Canterbury 57, medium built, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim female, 21-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379673

FUN fit, friendly 50yr old male, medium build, seeking female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400045

DENNIS 53yrs retired police officer living in Kent, WLTW female for mutual fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404201

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, independent, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Children/animals welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404537

GARRY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, easygoing, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401

JOHN 40, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, walks, countryside, GSOH, N/S, dad of one, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390119

YOUNG 64yr old fit, active male, seeks similar female for outings and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365642

PROFESSIONAL romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195

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"We had a wonderful laugh. We were away normally every weekend, normally to antique events and the big fairs," she said. "We would do a boot sale on the Saturday and Sunday. It was a lifestyle."

So why does the mother of three do it?

"It's such a buzz. It's like a drug. It's about finding something exciting and getting it cheap," she said. "That's how you get hooked, you get something that's rare and you get it really cheap."

"You think 'I will carry on doing this'. It's the worst thing that could happen to us – to find a £600 teapot for £30."

Some of them, though, do not come cheap, and with entry to Teapot Island costing just £2.50 you are left wondering how it covers its costs. However, the sale of the family business, a garage in Sidcup, has meant it is not a problem.

The question of how much she has spent over the years is one that Sue does not think about too hard.

"We must not think about the money because once you spend it, it's gone," she said.

"If you went out drinking down the pub or go to the betting shop, it's different. At least with this, I have got something to show for it."

"I wouldn't even dream of trying to add it up. Imagine if they were on average £20 each and I've got more than 7,000."

For the record, that works out at £140,000.

"I just want people to see them," she said. "It doesn't worry me in the



VARIETY: On the left is a teapot made to look like a peacock and, right, the shelves are adorned with more teapots than you could have imagined existing

slightest. We have had to work very hard at it for a long time.

"I want it to be of historical value to the ceramic world. When I'm gone they can talk about me on Antiques Roadshow. I want it to be used as an example."

The collecting world can be ruthless at times and it is important to keep your cards close to your chest, especially if you want to get the final pieces of a set.

"People don't know what they have got most of the time and it's not for me to tell them," said Sue. "If I see

something that's good, I wouldn't tell anybody about it until I have got it.

"I know a couple of people that have got teapots that I want. If I managed to get them, I would probably be bored."

The recession has had a big impact on the collecting market, with prices fluctuating, while there are also not as many collectables being made as there used to, but that is not necessarily bad news for Sue.

"I don't buy so many any more. There's hardly any companies that make them. I don't need that many

for what I've got. I've got enough to show people. I think it will slow down, which is good for me because then I won't have to buy so many."

Even if her collection does not grow any bigger, she can lay claim to having been a world-record-holder, twice being recognised for having the largest collection in the world by the Guinness World Records authority.

However, that accolade now belongs to China's Tang Yu, who has 30,000 different teapots dating from the Song Dynasty to modern times.

"The thing is, does he have a shop that sells them? If that's the case, then I don't consider it a world record," she said. "I'm trying to get different teapots, not 20 of the same one."

"It was gutting when we lost it. Gutting beyond belief, but I've still got the signs up from when we had the record because it is an achievement."

■ **Entry to Teapot Island costs £2.50 for adults and £1.50 for children and seniors. For more information, visit www.teapotisland.com.**

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Help at hand for artists wanting to make a living

Kent Creative Live is urging those in the creative industries to learn the importance of self-sustainability, writes **Greg Miles**

A new initiative has started to help creative folk in the county make the most of their varied talents.

It is a worn stereotype that those working in the arts world often do not make ends meet through their passion and so often have to take other jobs to make a living.

However, Kent Creative Live is seeking to right that wrong by bringing together like-minded people to share knowledge, experience and ideas about how the likes of artists, photographers, designers and authors can be self-sustainable.

The arts have taken a big hit in

recent years during the recession. Projects have often only got off the ground through bidding for grants, which have now been cut, or simply don't exist because of the economic situation.

“Funding for artists is getting less every year. It's important people who are in the creative industry start being more self-sustainable.”

It has created a fear that those wishing to flex their creative muscles will be forced to move away from such things.

Run by Kent Creative Arts CIC, KCL is a collaborative project with Ideas Test, an action research project that is funded by Arts Council England to develop innovative approaches to increasing engagement with arts.

The idea is that members will benefit from meeting at workshops and events run by KCL throughout the year. Its founder Nathalie Banaigs started the initiative earlier this year, having been a part of the creative networking scene for a

number of years before that.

The 45-year-old used to work in television in France and moved to England, where she has worked as a production assistant and film researcher.

She is also the brains behind the 365 project, which has seen Faversham, Canterbury and Whitstable captured in photographs, with each day of the year represented by a different picture.

“It is a typical network event but adapted to creative people, so it's more fun and relaxed,” she said. “We get together artists and creative professionals in Kent. The idea is to organise events for them to get

together so they can build relationships between themselves.

“Lots of them are freelance and so naturally don't have the chance to connect with other people. The feedback they get from each other does help to raise their confidence but also gives them ideas.”

She said she hoped to help realise some people's dreams of making a living out of the arts sector.

“The Arts Council is pushing for sustainability in art,” she said. “They are aware they have less money than they used to.

Continued on page 42 »



NETWORKING: Kent Creative Live wants our artists to be self-sustainable

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"They are encouraging creative people to become self-sufficient.

"Historically, what people do is teaching to earn a living. They don't all enjoy it. Some find it really difficult to make a living out of it.

"We also have people who don't want to and feel uncomfortable selling art. It is a lot of people's dream to earn a living from what they do, though.

"Funding for artists is getting less every year. It's important people who are in the creative industry start being more self-sustainable."

There are some important lessons for people to learn from workshops, which can help those involved make the most of their business.

"One aspect to it is the learning," said Banaigs. "Lots of creative people don't have a head for business, so we are helping with that. It's not difficult, it's something you can learn.

"It's the business of understanding money-management, just giving people a bit of knowledge and support.

"Whatever we do, the principles of running a business are the same."

There is a range of ways she hopes to give people a lift.

"Something we are going to launch very soon is developing the relationships with businesses so it is easier for them to get work, whether a business needs a new website or an illustrator to help with a new leaflet or a photographer for a photo shoot," she said.

"Lots of businesses use creative skills and we have a lot of them



WORKSHOPS: Members can learn new skills and share advice at group

together in one group. Obviously, it's not just about good artists – it's about getting yourselves known."

One of the reasons artists may have suffered in a recession is that the cost of their work could be considered an unnecessary expense in times of hardship.

It is a view, perhaps unsurprisingly, with which Banaigs does not agree.

"My view is that art is more important than people realise," she said. "The idea that it is good for your well-being is true – it is important.

"It is important that people start treating it with some financial value."

The group's workshops and events

take place around the county, but there is also a new branch for the Swale and Medway area starting on Tuesday, January 14, and taking place for nine months, with events around Chatham, Rochester, Sittingbourne and Faversham.

The nine workshops and eight meet-ups, which each last three hours, cost £112 and are subsidised by funding from Ideas Test. To qualify for the subsidised rate, you must either live or work in the Swale and Medway area.

■ For information about other events around the county and what the group offers, you can visit www.kentcreative.org.

Time Out Top Ten

1 Rare Breeds Centre, Woodchurch

December 15-23

Website: www.rarebreeds.org.uk

Magical Christmas: Meet Santa and his helpers in the grotto. Booking advised. Times vary.

2 The Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne

Friday, January 3

Phone: 01795 471140

Love Is All You Need: Rom-com movie starring Pierce Brosnan. Starts 7.45pm. Tickets £4.

3 Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

Monday, December 16

www.atgtickets.com/folkestone

Remember When at Christmas: Neil Sands leads cast with festive music. Tickets £12.90-£14.90.

4 Market Place, Faversham town centre

Sunday, December 22

www.faversham.org

Faversham Christmas markets: Get ready for Christmas with arts, crafts and produce.

5 Hazlitt, Maidstone

Wednesday, January 8

Phone: 01622 758611

www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

Comedy night: Laugh along with Mike Gunn, Ivo Graham and Andrew Ryan. Tickets £10.

6 Winter Gardens, Margate

Saturday, December 21

Phone: 01843 292795

www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

Disco Inferno: Dance along to the sounds of soul from the 70s and 80s. Tickets £9 in advance.

7 Trinity, Tunbridge Wells

Tuesday, December 17

Phone: 01892 678678

www.trinitytheatre.net

Sunshine On Leith: Musical film featuring Scottish favourites The Proclaimers. Tickets £6.50.

8 The Orchard, Dartford

Friday, December 20

Phone: 01322 220000

www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

Jackson Live in Concert: Ben Bowman is the King of Pop in this tribute. Tickets from £15.50.

9 Gulbenkian, Canterbury

Wednesday, December 18

Phone: 01227 769075

www.thegulbenkian.co.uk

Parsifal: New production of Wagner's epic opera on meditation of guilt and death. Tickets £15.

10 Theatre Royal Margate

December 14-29

Phone: 01843 292795

www.theatroyalmargate.com

Cinderella: Pantomime starring Scott Wright from Coronation Street. Times vary. Tickets £15.



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KENT LIFE

Pie's the limit in firm expansion into Kent



Goddard's Pies made its name in south-east London, but moving part of its operation out of the capital has proved a winner, writes **Greg Miles**

MOVING away from your roots can sometimes have disastrous consequences for businesses, but a famous pie-producer has taken its history and reputation with it to make a move to Kent an unconditional triumph.

Goddard's Pies, which is known for its shops in the capital, opened up a new arm of its business near Sevenoaks in 2010 as it embarked on the wholesale market, selling to restaurants and cafés.

It has proved such a success that it is already expanding again, while its products are now the food of choice at one Premier League football ground.

It was founded in 1890 by Alfred Goddard in Evelyn Street, Deptford, where the first pie-and-mash shop was founded. He built the business at a time when the high street was booming and

passed it on to sons Robert, known as Bob, and George in 1936.

They opened another shop in 1952 in Greenwich, where to begin with the pies were transported after being cooked in the Deptford shop.

After a few years they decided to take one shop each, with Bob taking the Greenwich shop and his brother staying in Deptford.

The business was passed on again in 1972, to Bob's eldest son Dave and his wife Pam, who in turn introduced the current owners, their sons Jeff and Kane, to the business at an early age.

They eventually sold The Pieshop in Greenwich in 2006, which enabled them to take a break and start planning for their new business, the wholesale market.

After a lengthy search, they settled on a new base in Borough Green, where they moved in April 2010 after it was fitted out with custom kitchens and storage



facilities. They have since opened up a new retail shop in Greenwich again after settling into the wholesale scene.

"They spent 18 months looking for the right property size, place and cost. Coming to Kent is just how it fell," said co-owner Sean Horton, who joined his childhood friends Jeff and Kane in the business in 2009 as they prepared for the move into wholesale.

"We needed a new base to start our wholesale operation. We didn't have a premises at the time.

"It was always their ambition to

start up a wholesale business to sell into the food market. We could not do that from the retail shops."

The company has had such early positive results that it is already expanding.

There is no 18-month search this time as it is simply spilling over operations to the space next door.

"We needed the storage space, really. Moving into next door will allow us to have a bigger office,

Continued on page 44 »

« Continued from page 43

and freezers to hold the stock,” said Horton.

Importantly, it means that output can be doubled, with the floorspace of 4,500 sq ft being added to by another 3,000 sq ft when the move is made.

The century-old history of Goddard’s and its current expansion is proof that the nation’s appetite for pies has never waned, despite the decline of pie-and-mash outlets.

“It did suffer in the 70s and 80s,” said Horton.

“A lot of it was through the London rents and prices went up. As a concept it’s very much up there in vogue,” he said.

The new venture now sees the company supplying the industry of which it is still very much a part. Shortly after the move to Kent, it became the sole supplier of pies to Sainsbury’s Pie and Mash outlet at Lakeside shopping centre in Essex.

But one of its biggest deals in terms of exposure comes on the terraces at Premier League football club Crystal Palace. Goddard’s pies are sold on match days at the club’s home ground Selhurst Park and at mobile counters outside the ground.

It is something of a dream come true for Horton and the Goddard brothers, who all grew up in Croydon and have supported Palace since.

“It’s lovely exposure. The nice part about it is that Jeff, Kane and myself are born and bred in Croydon,” said Horton. “I used to go as a young boy, so it’s really nice. It’s gone full circle.”

The team are happy to grow organically at the moment, with their reputation from the pie-shop



FRIENDS AND FLAVOURS: Above, from left, Kane Goddard, Sean Horton and Jeff Goddard and their dessert pies

days ensuring they have a steady stream of new business.

Pursuing deals with big chains is not a direction they wanted to go in as they sought to remain in charge of their future.

“We don’t have any plans to go into supermarkets,” said Horton. “I think there’s more an element of risk

as they start deciding how you should run your business and we are not happy to do that.

“We have pushed very hard this year to attract the wholesale food market – that’s where the large business is. Companies want them by the thousand – that’s the market we want.

“We pitch our products a little bit above the medium market in terms of quality and the cost. What companies have realised is they cannot get away with selling cheap and nasty food anymore.

“People are very cost-conscious and also want value for money and want to eat something that’s

nice and appealing.”

The meat-based classics such as steak and ale, lamb and chicken are still among the favourites with consumers, but it does not mean there is no room for evolution although there has to be a demand.

“Depending on what we are up to, we try to do one or two new flavours a year. It’s driven by our customers,” said Horton.

“There is a big difference between what people buy in the supermarkets, where you get quite interesting flavour choices with things like game.

“For us, the flavours are dictated by the types of consumer we have and what they want.”

The latest Goddard’s venture comes with a sweet, rather than savoury, twist as the company begins its assault on the dessert world in the wholesale market.

“We are now moving into the fruit desserts and fruit crumbles and we use Kentish apples. We also use a Kent-based fruit supplier,” said Horton.

“We have always had for our own business fruit pies and crumbles. That goes back many years. They are very local and simple ingredients.”

Cutting down on food miles has been a big issue in recent years, but it is not always possible as far as Horton is concerned.

“We always use what we refer to as ‘locally sold’. We use a Sussex-based butcher of only British meat,” he said.

“It’s easy to say why don’t you get everything from Kent. We used to use a Kent-based butcher but moved to Sussex because we weren’t happy with the quality.”





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Turning tide reveals glory of Sands

Sands Hotel

Location: Margate

Reviewed by NICK SMITH

THE first thing that strikes you upon walking into Margate's Sands Hotel is that here is a place on which a lot of money has been lavished.

We have referred before on these pages to the ongoing saga of Margate, so it will suffice here to outline just the basics: this is a seaside town that has hit rock-bottom and is now seeing, we all hope, something of a rebirth as a good place to be.

It rather depends on which part of town you're in as to how much you believe the hype. And hype there has been in almost offensive quantities – what this town needs is people putting their money their mouth is.

Some have done so – and all credit to them for showing faith in a place upon which many had long given up, but – the publicly-funded Turner Contemporary aside – nowhere has genuine expenditure been as obvious as it is at Sands.

The chandeliers, columns and cornices are the result of Margate-born designer Dawn Pirie working with owner Nick Conington and his

wife Karen. It was Conington who in 2011 took the plunge and bought the Victorian building at auction.

His original plan had been to covert it into luxury flats but, happily for those keen to see a quality venue open in Margate, he ventured back to its origins – it began life as a hotel and restaurant – and so Sands was born.

And delightful it is, too. Rarely have I been so smitten by a place, so taken aback by what is being done.

The seaward views are outstanding and complement the beautifully-crafted décor so that the less-than-inspiring swathe of Margate high street, which abuts the other side of the hotel, is forgotten.

We ate in the hotel's Bay Restaurant, where I started with pan-seared king scallops, black pudding with sweetcorn-and-bacon relish and followed up with pavé of Sussex red sirloin, wild mushroom, roasted garlic, horseradish pomme purée and Madeira jus.

Sometimes reviewers struggle to find sufficient words with which to describe their food, but here I'll stick with just the one: flawless.



My guest went for Jerusalem artichoke velouté with smoked-salmon garnish as starter and roast monkfish wrapped in serrano ham with creamed leeks and saffron-and-mussel cream. The verdict was identical to mine.

With wine, the bill came to a touch short of £90. More than some are keen to pay on a meal, certainly, but worth every penny and you can

always skip the odd lesser night out elsewhere to make the balance.

There were quibbles: the pop music as background doesn't do justice to the setting; it wasn't possible to rest the cutlery on the plates; and those waiting needed greater knowledge of what they were serving.

The last issue is being attended to, I know, and I hope that management bear with the staff who served us as

their attitude could not be faulted and, after all, they are, like many in Margate, on a learning curve that could finish in a very good place.

Believe.

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Woodland threat must be stopped

I WRITE regarding the planning application currently being considered by Maidstone and Tonbridge & Malling borough councils.

Croudace Strategic Ltd would like to build a high density development comprising 500 new homes, school and community centre on greenfield land which includes the use of orchards and ancient woodland.

I wonder how many of your readers realise this application, together with several others in the immediate area, may mean more than 1,350 new homes will soon be built, all of which will use Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, as their primary access route.

I'm afraid these developments are unsustainable and will lead to a detrimental and devastating effect on the local population, infrastructure, traffic and air quality.

This ambitious and greedy development seeks to destroy more than 330 trees, all of which are protected in the ancient bluebell wood.

The planning authorities must ensure any new development is truly sustainable in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and with the necessary infrastructure in place.

Our ancient woodland is vital for generating oxygen, especially important in and around Maidstone where air pollution already exceeds EU standards.

For the sake of future generations, please make your voice heard and object to this development, and the use of our ancient woodland for commercial gain.

Angela Poletti, Maidstone

Area deprived of trauma unit too

IN last week's KoS, 13 councillors put their names to the letter headed 'Time to address deprived county'.

Nothing could be nearer the truth than the deprivation of that in Thanet, particularly with the new nationwide system for accident and emergency care, which began on April 8 this year.

The East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust (EKHFT) decided to adopt this system without any public consultation – in spite of the legal requirement to do so.

Their excuse? They had not completed their clinical strategy review.

This new nationwide major trauma network needed certain hospitals to

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Politicians worth far more than we credit

AMID the furore over possible increases to MPs wages, I ask this: if we want the best calibre people making the important decisions on behalf of each and every one of us, don't we want to ensure they receive a payment suitable?

It sounds like a large sum, but £74,000 is still a long way short of the sort of money you would

expect in many such responsible positions.

It is easy to mock politicians, but they do have a great deal of responsibility on their shoulders and deserve decent recompense.

And no, I don't know any MPs, but I do get tired of everyone constantly complaining about them.

T Hunter, Tonbridge

be designated as 'trauma units'.

Three were chosen by Kent and Medway Trauma NHS Network: the Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury, William Harvey in Ashford and the Medway Maritime in Gillingham.

As far as residents, workers and visitors of Thanet were/are concerned, none of these three selected hospitals ensure safe, equal, fair A&E treatment for Thanet.

They are all outside of the time specified by the Royal College of Surgeons as having to be, quote, "accessible within 45 minutes".

The Medway Maritime currently has concerns over its mortality rates.

To retrieve the situation and to wipe the slate clean, EKHFT should remove Medway Maritime from this role. Instead, it should consider doing the right thing for the already deprived people of Thanet and make the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital (QEOM) one instead.

This hospital has a daytime/night-time helipad, a newly installed 'resus [resuscitation] ward', and newly installed equipment for a

quick diagnosis for emergency care.

The councillors who put their names to last week's letter could do no better than begin by addressing the problem to ensure adequate, equal A&E care for Thanet.

Betty Renz, Thanet Action for Trauma Emergencies (Tate), Margate

Tories put Tories before families

THE announcement earlier this year by Conservative county councillor Jenny Whittle that some 23 Sure Start children's centres were to be cut prompted a number of campaigns across Kent against the closures, including six petitions, the Save Kent Children's Centres campaign, Faversham SOCCS, and an initiative from trade union councils across Kent.

Parents, trade unionists, socialists and activists campaigned tirelessly to build opposition to these ideologically-inspired closures, collecting 4,036 signatures on the petitions,

6,008 written responses to the consultation and two demonstrations outside the KCC offices.

The social care and public health committee met on December 5 to hear Cllr Whittle's response to the consultation process and we should congratulate ourselves on our success in stopping the closure of 11 centres.

However, the latest proposal requires a £2.5 million saving which is £1m more than the original consultation proposal.

This means that while fewer centres will now be closed, reduced Sure Start staff will be stretched more to deliver these savings resulting in a poorer service.

It should be noted KCC already spends far less than the national average on children's centre provision: only £62 per child under five, while the UK average is £95.

This shows KCC is not providing the necessary level of children's centre services to meet social need.

These cuts to services can only be successfully fought by strike action strengthened by the support of parents, because KCC councillors are unwilling to demand funding from Tories in national government to properly fund local public services.

Their loyalty is to the Conservative Party, rather than families in Kent.

So it is clear that, in the main, the proposed closures, cuts in hours and mergers of children's centres – which cannot be separated from cuts to libraries, care centres and so on – will go ahead unless our campaign continues.

A campaign based firmly on the trade unions, parents and activists can be successful if we maintain and coordinate our opposition to all cuts, rather than playing off one service or one Sure Start centre against another.

This could include standing in elections on a 'no to all cuts' platform as it has become clear we cannot rely on any of the current KCC councillors to fight these cuts.

Eric Segal, Folkestone

Homeless people need our help

WE at the Bridge Trust, in Tonbridge, are appealing for people to donate warm winter sleeping bags.

Our charity provides accommodation for single homeless adults in west Kent, but we are currently unable to provide immediate accommodation. Until a room becomes available we urgently need sleeping bags for homeless people.

Please call 01732 368363.

Caroline Dunmall, The Bridge Trust

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline "Inspiring Communities".

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles: **Kent on Sunday will:**

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- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.



Trosley Country Park

by **Rebecca Warren-Heys**
from Chatham

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Come with us on a relaxing river cruise on the majestic Rhine and beautiful Moselle rivers in southern Germany. Relax on board the MV Prinse Christina as she glides silkily past romantic hilltop castles, picturesque vineyards and historic riverside towns. To join the ship, we travel by train from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Cologne, via Brussels - with just one train change. Alternatively, fly to Cologne from Gatwick.

- INCLUDED:**
- Escorted throughout
 - Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Cologne or return flights from Gatwick
 - 7 nights full-board on the MV Prinse Christina sharing a twin outside cabin on Cabin Deck - upgrades available
 - Transfers abroad

MENTON LEMON FESTIVAL, NICE CARNIVAL & MONACO



QUOTE: DF2-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail - afternoon departure
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, **£849pp**
Departs 25 February, 2014

**CHAMPAGNE
CHECK-IN**

This super holiday, taking in the French Riviera's premiere Carnivals, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras' famous champagne bar.

- INCLUDED:**
- Escorted throughout
 - Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras & return rail travel (from Ebbsfleet on request)

- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris
- 6 nights in Diano Marina with buffet breakfasts and dinners and free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night - local beer, wine & spirits
- Included visits to Menton Lemon Festival, Nice Carnival, Monaco and Cervo
- All transfers abroad

MENTON LEMON FESTIVAL, NICE CARNIVAL & MONACO



QUOTE: ML2-2-KOS

Escorted Holiday by air
4 days, **£399pp**
Departs 21 February, 2014

Come with us to see the French Riviera's premiere Carnivals and visit Monaco. We fly from Gatwick to Nice and stay in chic Beaulieu Sur Mer. On the French Riviera we travel to Nice, Menton and Monaco on the scenic coastal railway and enjoy great views along the way.

- INCLUDED:**
- Return flights from Gatwick to Nice with cabin baggage

- Return transfers from Nice airport to hotel
- 3 nights B&B in 3-star hotel between Nice and Menton
- Return rail travel to Nice, Monaco and Menton
- Reserved grandstand seat at Menton Parade
- Services of a Tour Manager in the resort

FERRARI - LIVE THE DREAM IN MARANELLO



QUOTE: FE3/10-KOS

Escorted Holiday by air
4 days, **£499pp**
Departs 27 March & 16 October, 2014

Come with us to Maranello in Italy - home to the world's most famous sports car maker. Our tour takes in the The Ferrari Museum, The Enzo Ferrari Museum, the Fiorano test-track and Viale Enzo Ferrari. We stay at a Ferrari themed hotel and have the opportunity to take a Ferrari out for a spin.

- INCLUDED:**
- Escorted throughout abroad
 - 3 nights B&B at the 4 star Maranello Village Hotel
 - Return Easyjet flights, with hand luggage, Gatwick to Bologna
 - All travel and excursions abroad

ITALIAN LAKES - COMO, GARDA & MAGGIORE



QUOTE: LC6-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail
9 days, semi-all-inclusive, **£1129pp**
Departs 23 June, 2014

**CHAMPAGNE
CHECK-IN**

Come with us to the Italian Lakes where the mountains roll down to the water's edge. We travel by Eurostar from London to Paris and by overnight train - with private 2-berth cabins - to Verona. We stay in a lakeside hotel on an all-inclusive basis including free drinks.

- INCLUDED:**
- Escorted throughout
 - Return Eurostar to Paris and Thello rail travel to Verona, returning from Milan in a 2-berth overnight sleeper cabin
 - 6 nights in a deluxe room at the 3 Star Britannia Excelsior Hotel on an all-inclusive basis
 - Excursions
 - All transfers abroad

GRAND DANUBE 4-STAR RIVER CRUISE



QUOTE: DC-KOS

Escorted Fly-Cruise
9 days, from **£1099pp**
Departs 6 July, 27 July, 17 August & 5 October, 2014

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- INCLUDED:**
- Escorted throughout abroad
 - Return flights, with hold luggage, to Munich from Gatwick
 - 1 night hotel B&B in Germany & 7 night full board cruise on the MS Serenity in a standard twin bed, outside cabin
 - Transfers abroad

TUSCANY COAST & COUNTRY EXPLORER BY RAIL



QUOTE: TR5/9-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, **£899pp**
Departs 23 May & 20 September, 2014

Come with us to incomparable Tuscany. The Tuscan seaside town of Forte dei Marmi has been described as the region's Beverly Hills and here we enjoy free drinks every night at our hotel. We will visit Lucca, Pisa, Florence and Porto Venere - with access to stunning Cinque Terra. There is also the opportunity to visit Portofino.

- INCLUDED:**
- Escorted throughout
 - Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request)
 - 1 night hotel B&B in or near Nice & 6 nights in Italy with 6 buffet breakfasts, 6 dinners & Free Drinks from 6pm to 10pm every night
 - Excursions & transfers

Note: Price of Holidays by Air subject to flight availability at time of booking - supplement may apply

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MOVING ON UP: Businesses in Tunbridge Wells will be among those eligible to bid for the Escalator fund

Opportunity to reach new level with Escalator funds

EXPANDING businesses in west Kent will get the opportunity to bid for interest-free cash as part of a new growth fund.

The Escalate programme has been handed £5.5 million as part of the Government's Regional Growth Fund and will look to offer zero per cent loans to small companies based along the A21 corridor.

The fund will be invested in projects around Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling, and Tunbridge Wells as well as Hastings, Rother and Wealden in East Sussex.

It will come as a real boost to many businesses in that part of the county which have had to watch while additional funding and support is offered to their counterparts in east Kent.

"This is for businesses with the potential for high growth, that want to expand and employ people," said Jacqui Ward, Regional Growth Fund manager for Kent County Council.

"Escalate involves an application process where developing companies can come forward and ask us for funding. They have to give us an indication of the potential jobs created if they obtained the funding.

"We are asking for businesses to

As part of the Regional Growth Fund, west Kent firms have opportunity to get interest-free cash, writes **Joe Bill**

come forward with a total programme outline for their expansion that includes the use or purchase of buildings, acquiring land, machinery and employing people."

Escalate is the west Kent equivalent of the TIGER (Thames Gateway Innovation, Growth and Enterprise) fund which offers business loans to companies across Dartford, Gravesend, Medway and Swale.

And with Expansion East Kent helping to develop companies in Thanet, Canterbury, Dover and Shepway, it was viewed by KCC that small businesses in the west of the county also needed a financial fillip.

Mrs Ward said: "The perception of west Kent is of high growth here through its links to London.

"So perhaps some local businesses were not getting the same opportunities as those in areas suffering from high deprivation.

"When we asked the businesses what they required, they said they

were no different from any other company across Kent, that getting access to finance was still very difficult.

"It was something that was needed, we demonstrated to central Government it was needed, and we got £5.5m to put out there."

The Escalate loans are not for use as working capital and will need to be used for specific projects.

One of the core objectives of the fund is to get SMEs to realise their growth potential and encourage them to no longer operate from home and instead take up residence in office premises.

Escalate cash can also be acquired to support innovation; for example, it might support work to commercialise a new product or help attract additional private investment.

To win funding, a business must qualify as a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) with less than 250 employees.

The minimum loan that can be applied for is £10,000 while the maximum is £1m. Each application will be deliberated over by a review panel put together by KCC.

Mrs Ward added: "We have approval panels made up of people from both the private and public sector, and the decisions are made to see if the company gets the funding.

"Sometimes they get all the funds they applied for, sometimes its partial funding, and sometimes we will have to say no if the business doesn't fit the requirements."

The total value of an investment proposal cannot be completely funded with an Escalate loan.

The scheme will only contribute up to 50 per cent of the total costs to expand, with the rest having to be made up from non-Escalate funding, such as private sector investment or from the applicant's own resources.

Mrs Ward added: "We often have people come to us who have been turned down by the bank or who have only been offered a smaller percentage of funding by the bank and therefore can't grow.

Continued on page 50 »

Training, courses & careers

Pilot project proving a success as college prepares students

STUDENTS on a pilot project for the Government's new traineeships scheme have begun their journey towards employment.

Traineeships are for young people who want to work but who require extra help to gain an apprenticeship or job, with the initiative helping them develop the skills and experience most employers are looking for.

MidKent College, which has campuses in both Medway and Maidstone, is currently running a pilot scheme based on these principles.

It recently organised a get-together for trainees who completed a two-week course designed to

prepare them for the workplace.

Becky Farly, co-ordinator of the college's JobShop, which developed the scheme, said: "The young people covered many aspects of employability throughout the course.

"This included self confidence, effective teamworking and the importance of delivering excellent customer service.

"The celebration also marked the official 'handing over' of our students to the employers so they can begin putting theory into practice. Hopefully they will all be taken on as apprentices or full-time employees in the future."

Meanwhile, the son of one of the



READY FOR WORK: College students who took part in scheme

college's lecturers proved electrical talent is in his blood when he was named South East Apprentice of the Year.

David Marsh, who learned his craft at the college where his father Tony works, picked up the accolade at an awards ceremony organised by the training provider JTL.

The 25-year-old from Maidstone will now be put forward for the

national Apprentice of the Year title, which will be announced in February.

He said: "It's always helpful being able to come home and ask my Dad for advice about the job. He and the rest of my family have always been very supportive. I've also had massive support from everyone at work and at MidKent College."

Awards recognise students and staff

BROMLEY College celebrated its students' successes at its annual awards ceremony recently.

The event showcased the achievements of 15 students, who were nominated by their tutors to receive awards in recognition of their hard work and success.

Staff were also recognised, with 16 awards given to individuals and teams who have made a positive impact on their colleagues or students. Amy King, 22, was named Outstanding Student of the Year.

Dungeness packs powerful punch

BIG crowds flocked to Dungeness B power station as youngsters looked to power up their career by securing an apprenticeship.

More than 70 young people and their parents came to learn more about a career with EDF Energy. Those attending ranged from between 14 to 22, were given a guided tour and met existing apprentices.

» What is your business doing to help our young people? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call 01303 817100.

FUNDING POTS AROUND THE COUNTY

Expansion East Kent

EXPANSION East Kent is a £35 million programme of financial support to businesses seeking to invest in east Kent to create jobs.

The programme aims to unlock private sector finance, stimulating more than £300m in associated investment over the course of the next three years, creating a major boost for the east Kent economy.

The funding derives from the successful bid for £40m from the Government's Regional Growth Fund, which Kent County Council, along with the Sandwich Task Force and east Kent districts, secured in October 2011.

TIGER

STANDING for Thames Gateway Innovation, Growth and Enterprise, Tiger is a fund offering financial assistance to businesses looking to invest in new products, processes or markets, or potentially looking to expand existing activities where they will lead to increased sustainable employment.

Again funded by the Government's Regional Growth Fund, Tiger will be available to businesses seeking to invest in Dartford, Gravesham, Medway, Swale and Thurrock in Essex.

The loans offered are interest-free and normally unsecured – but they will need to be used for specific investment projects (not working capital).

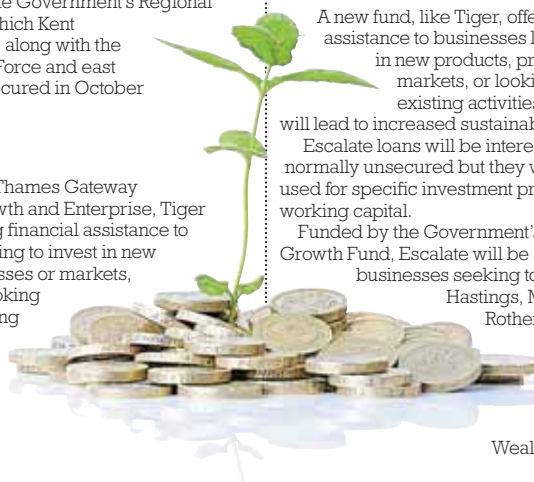
Escalate

A new fund, like Tiger, offering financial assistance to businesses looking to invest in new products, processes or markets, or looking to expand existing activities where they will lead to increased sustainable employment.

Escalate loans will be interest-free and normally unsecured but they will need to be used for specific investment projects, not working capital.

Funded by the Government's Regional Growth Fund, Escalate will be available to businesses seeking to invest in

Hastings, Maidstone, Rother, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling, Tunbridge Wells and Wealden.



« Continued from page 49

"We can be flexible depending on the type of business and proposal, but we are governed by state aid. We have got this money now and we want to get it out there."

The Regional Growth Fund was announced

KEA

in October 2010, with the Government pledging £1.4 billion would be available for small businesses looking to grow in an attempt to revive the economy.

Local authorities can apply to central government for a cash injection for businesses operating in certain areas of their county.

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Taxing question of whether to become a limited company

Businesses which are considering changing their legal entity should think about more than just trying to reduce their tax bill, says **Craig Bowers**

MOST small to medium-sized businesses fall into three categories; partnerships, limited liability partnerships (LLPs) and limited companies.

Profits on the first two are taxed at the same rate as personal income whereas limited companies pay corporation tax.

As income tax rates have increased over recent years, with the top level of personal tax standing at 45 per cent, corporation tax has steadily decreased, currently standing at 20 per cent for small businesses.

There can, therefore, be tax advantages in changing from being a partnership or LLP into a limited company.

But there are also other issues to consider...

Legally, there are a number of things to think about.

You need to consider your important client contracts and whether or not they are easily transferable.

Likewise, staff, who are also likely to need to transfer from the partnership into the employment of the limited company.

Then there are landlords, banks and suppliers who might need to give their consent too.

However, the procedure need not be that arduous provided a clear structure is mapped out with advice from your lawyer or tax adviser.

For partnerships that incorporate, an obvious benefit is limited liability for the participants, which provides some protection in the event of things going wrong, something LLPs already enjoy.

A company offers greater flexibility for raising finance. It can hold assets in its own name,

and the share structure and ability to create different classes of shares is important in attracting investors without the need for them to be involved in the management.

Corporate status creates a stronger 'identity' for dealings with third parties and is often a more recognised legal entity and beneficial for organisations doing business abroad.

LLPs are something of a hybrid arrangement and not universally recognised.

The change to being a limited company means management structures can be put in place more easily; the board of directors responsible for the day-to-day running of the company can be separate to the owners of the business, which can be advantageous.

This is difficult in a partnership and even, to a certain extent, in an LLP.

Key members of staff of a limited company can be rewarded and incentivised through employee management schemes – a tax efficient vehicle for passing shares to staff – and with a corporate structure succession planning is much easier.

Employee share schemes, such as the Enterprise Management Incentive (EMI) scheme, represent a good deal for employers and employees alike.

In some circumstances, there may also be financial benefits from 'selling' the goodwill that belongs to the partnership or LLP to the new limited company, but expert tax advice should be sought on this.

■ **Craig Bowers** is from the commercial team at Kings Hill-based Vertex Law, part of Cripps Harries Hall LLP.



PROS AND CONS: Craig Bowers

Business rates reduction welcomed, but Osborne 'should have been bolder'

By Joe Bill

© B

ONE of the county's most senior business chiefs has given partial praise to the Chancellor's autumn statement – highlighting in particular the move to curb business rate increases, but saying more could have been done.

Jo James, chief executive of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said she was pleased George Osborne had heeded the business call for a "steady autumn statement, rather than a grab bag of electoral giveaways".

She said: "While Britain's economy is improving, and our businesses report strong confidence, the UK is still some way from achieving the truly great economy we need."

"Business will be pleased the Chancellor has finally acted on business rates bills after years of relentless increases that sucked the life out of companies around the UK."

"The measures announced to curb business rate increases are positive, but not strong enough to boost companies' cash flow and investment. The Chancellor should have been bolder, freezing business rates entirely until this pernicious tax can be properly reformed."

"The chamber movement has long called for action to make rate relief schemes work better for business – particularly those relating to empty properties."

"The announced changes will go a small way towards this, but only serve to illustrate how broken the current system is as a whole."

"While we welcome the intention to consult on longer term reform, businesses have heard this all before. They want a solid commitment to

reform, not another vague pledge. Businesses will support the commitment to speed up valuation appeals, but will reserve judgment until they see improvements on the ground."

"Upgraded growth forecasts, lower borrowing forecasts and increased business confidence are all indications the UK economy is moving in the right direction. However, restoring stability to the public finances remains crucial to businesses."

"The Chancellor must continue to restrain current spending and prioritise resources on investment in infrastructure, and on creating the most competitive environment for wealth

creation and enterprise."

Meanwhile, Roger House, chairman of the Federation for Small Businesses in Kent and Medway, said: "The autumn statement represents steady progress, with a range of announcements that address FSB members' concerns in the cost of doing business, with action on business rates and confirmation that next year's fuel duty rise will be cancelled."

"The statement is a sobering reminder about the scale of the deficit the country faces and the tough choices which need to be made."

"We therefore welcome the use of what spare resources the Chancellor could find to focus tax cuts on encouraging firms to take on younger workers, which must be an overriding priority."

"Action on business rates was the top priority for Kent members, and the Chancellor has addressed some of their concerns."

"Too many businesses suffer from yearly price rises so capping business rates increases is a welcome measure. With around 300,000 firms relying on 100 per cent rates relief, extending the doubling of small business rates relief will be welcomed by many."



TOUGH PRAISE: Jo James

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Nissan Qashqai

Price: from £17,595
Driving appeal: Yet to be tested
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★★
Best rival: Hyundai ix35

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KENT LIFE

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Pressure off Qashqai Mk II?

HENRY Ford allowed the Model T to live on well past its sell-by date, as did Volkswagen with the legendary Beetle.

But modern production cycles ensure this cannot happen and risk the brand's future; as soon as a new model hits the showroom, a replacement is being planned and a launch window agreed – usually five or seven years ahead.

But it is the true measure of a car's brilliance when it remains competitive even to the moment the axe falls. The Nissan Qashqai is a shining example.

It arrived almost seven years ago from a brand struggling with the label 'boring' and created a whole new niche: the crossover – part sports utility vehicle (SUV), part MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) and part family hatch. It also looked and drove well, was British-made and, crucially, overturned the market's negative perception of Nissan.

Thanks to its alliance with Renault, the Qashqai also had some good engines, notably Renault's excellent 1.5-litre turbodiesel, which endowed front-driven Qashqai versions with a blend of power and economy that suited recession-hit family buyers.

The icing on the cake was a neatly-stretched version that added two, albeit dinky, seats – the Qashqai +2.

No pressure then on the Qashqai 'Mark II', arriving in January (priced from £17,595) and aiming to maintain its predecessor's UK Top 10 selling form.

Nissan insists the newcomer is all-new from the ground up, though the overall styling is evolutionary rather than revolutionary and it retains the option of everyday front-wheel-drive or full 4x4 with limited off-road capability.

But it's clear from interior previews that Nissan fancies its

Other view...

the Petrolhead

With Range Rover doing well with the Evoque, couldn't Nissan do with a 'Qashqai GT' now? It could be good for the brand image.

the Woman Driver

This is the perfect car: it looks good, the seating position is higher and it is flexible enough for family use. I want one.

the Eco-warrior

A good compromise for people seeking economy, space and environmental sensitivity. Nissan needs some.



chances of moving the Qashqai upmarket, and perhaps towing its own image there, too.

A sign of that ambition is shown by an exclusive up-spec Premier limited-edition launch model reserved for just 290 existing Nissan customers until December 31, 2013. Each has its own numbered badge.

For the rest of the market, four familiar grades are offered: Visia, Acenta, Acenta Premium and Tekna, with standard kit including start/stop ignition, automatic air-con, Hill Start Assist, five-inch colour HD infotainment screen, tyre-pressure monitoring, and speed-limiter/cruise-control.

A Smart Vision Pack – £450 on lesser models and standard higher up the range – incorporates Front

Collision Avoidance and Traffic Sign Recognition. Other upmarket features available,

whether as an option or as standard, include big 19-inch alloys, roof rails,

part-leather seats, panoramic roof, heated seats and front and rear parking sensors.

Powertrains were a key part of the first Qashqai's success and two petrol and two diesel are offered, with the option of an all-new Xtronic automatic transmission.

Two small turbocharged petrol units – in keeping with a market trend – catch the eye, with the entry-level 115PS (113bhp) 1.2 DIG-T offering better acceleration and flexibility than the outgoing 1.6-litre naturally-aspirated engine, while its lower weight and greater fuel-efficiency makes it cleaner and greener: 129g/km of CO₂ and a combined fuel-consumption figure of 50.4mpg.

It will be joined next autumn by a 150PS (148bhp) 1.6 DIG-T engine: 132g/km and 50.4mpg.

A revised 110PS (108bhp) 1.5 dCi diesel returns and offers a road-tax-exempt Qashqai option with just 99g/km of CO₂ and combined fuel-consumption of just 74.3mpg.

The powerful 1.6-litre diesel is carried over to complete the line-up with 130PS (128bhp) output, low CO₂ emissions of 115g/km and 64.2mpg combined.



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Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO₂ emissions (g/km); Highest: New Citroën C4 Picasso VTi 120 manual VTR 8.5/33.2, 4.9/57.6, 6.3/44.8, 145. Lowest: New Citroën C4 Picasso e-HDi 90 Airdream ETG6 VTR+ 4.2/67.3, 3.5/80.7, 3.8/74.3, 98. MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions.

Picasso... the 'art' of Citroën's MPV period



PICASSO was famous for different artistic periods and experimentation, but his motoring namesake – Citroën's MPV sub-brand – starts with the same sketch each time.

It is one-box practicality with style and was laid down in 1999, with the arrival of the original Xsara Picasso.

The French marque has since abandoned Picasso model links with its mainstream cars and made it a stand-alone sub-brand.

Most owners simply say "a Picasso" when asked what they drive.

Mainstay of the line-up are the five- and seven-seat C4 models; the new-generation seven-up arrives in January (from £19,200) and has already scooped BBC Top Gear magazine's Family Car of the Year – judges' comments included "smart and futuristic" – but we've been driving the five-seater that arrived earlier this year (from £17,500).

Again, Citroën has contrived to make a four-wheel box look elegant, no doubt helped this time by the head of steam its designers have built up with its other sub-brand, the upmarket DS line-up.

Amazingly, the junior C4 is almost 12cm shorter than its predecessor, yet classier to look at and bigger on the inside.

The wraparound Robocop front end is part of the car's allure, but Citroën has used every trick in the book to blur yet polish the usual MPV box: chrome highlighting around part of the glasswork; a massive windscreen disappearing into the roof line; and a hefty side crease to visually lower the deep flanks.

However, there has also been a

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Citroën continues to dominate the MPV market with a blend of style and substance, exemplified by its latest Picasso model, writes **Steve Loader**



A NEW ARTFORM: Citroën has used the design influence of its successful DS range and incorporated several features in its new-generation Picasso

leap in interior quality, again with lots of DS influence on show.

The glassy cabin's airiness is accentuated by a minimalist dashboard concentrated into two central displays: a touchscreen handling infotainment and climate, and a widescreen for the primary gauges, though the comprehensive array of steering-wheel buttons

mean you don't need to stretch far to make adjustments.

I'm not keen on the centralised main screen, though, which smacks of penny-pinching to cater for both right- and left-hand-drive markets and argues against the increasingly common practice of placing speedo readings dead ahead, often with a head-up windscreen display.

KEA

Dacia Sandero Lauréate 1.5DCI

Price:	£9,795
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	zero
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FirstGEAR

Motoring news



By eck, it's E-Up

VW has risked the wrath of those 'oop North' by launching an electric version of its Up city car.

Called the E-Up – though a 0-62mph of 12.4 seconds argues a need for more 'gee-up' – it sells for £24,250, or £19,250 with the Government £5,000 electric-vehicle grant.

VW claims a range of up to 93 miles and top speed of 81mph, though low-speed urban traffic is the car's forte.



Cut-price facelift

RENAULT will ring in the new year with a facelifted Mégane line-up – Hatchback, Coupé and Sport Tourer.

But prices will fall by up to £1,200 on some versions, with the range now starting at £16,745.

A new corporate front end is the most obvious change, but the French marque highlights revised trim levels, and big savings on the popular and economical Energy dCi 110 and dCi 130 diesel-powered variants.



An upmarket Yaris

BUYERS downsizing into high-spec small cars seem to have persuaded Toyota to realign its Yaris and Yaris petrol-electric hybrid for 2014.

The simplified supermini range starts at £10,895 and features a revised 1.4 D-4D diesel, emitting just 99g/km, qualifying for zero road tax.

One of the new levels, Icon Plus (from £12,820), includes 15-inch alloys, auto headlights and wipers, front fog lights, climate-control and cruise-control as standard.

Week ending December 15, 2013 **55**

up to 2 years 0% finance

on selected
used 107s



24 monthly payments of	£119.00
Minimum Deposit	£2,875.00
On the Road Price	£5,750.00
Amount Financed	£2,875.00
Total Amount Payable	£5,750.00
Typical 0% APR	

Example based on
2010 (60)
107 Urban
1.0 5dr

Demonstrator Sale

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PEUGEOT RCZ

2012 (12) RCZ GT 200bhp finished in Pearl White with black leather interior/Onyx Black alloy wheels. Front/rear parking, climate control, auto lights/wipers, Bluetooth/USB£17,995

PEUGEOT 107

2007 (07) 107 Urban 5dr finished in Laser Red. Very low mileage, full history. Remote locking, electric windows, radio CD/MP3.....£4,495

2009 (09) 107 Verve 5dr finished in Laser Red. Low mileage, full history. Air conditioning, radio CD/MP3, remote locking, ABS.....£5,495

2010 (60) 107 Urban 5dr finished in Electro Blue. Full history. Remote Locking, radio CD/MP3, Electric windows, ABS.....£5,750

2010 (60) 107 Urban 5dr finished in Laser Red. Full history. Remote Locking, radio CD/MP3, Electric windows, ABS.....£6,250

2011 (61) 107 Urban 5dr finished in Diamond White. One owner, full history, low mileage. Remote Locking, radio CD/MP3, Electric windows, ABS.....£6,350

2012 (12) 107 Allure 5dr finished in Electro Blue. Bluetooth/USB, air conditioning, alloy wheels, front fog/LED daytime running lights.....£6,995

2013 (13) 107 Allure 5dr finished in Laser Red. Bluetooth/USB, air conditioning, alloy wheels, front fog/LED daytime running lights.....£7,750

PEUGEOT 207/208

2004 (04) 206 Zest 1.1 3dr finished in Moonstone Blue. One owner, full history, 42,000 miles.....DUE IN

2004 (53) 206SW XSI 1.6 finished in Black. Air conditioning, radio CD, electric windows and mirrors, alloys.....£2,500

2010 (60) 207 Millesim 1.4 5dr finished in Bianca White. Low Mileage, one owner. Bluetooth/USB, air conditioning, alloy wheels, electric windows/mirrors.....£6,495

2011 (61) 207SW Active VTI finished in Aluminium. Just 4,230 miles, full history. Bluetooth/USB, air conditioning, roof rails, front fog lights.....£7,250

2009 (59) 207SW Sport 1.6 Auto finished in Inari Blue. Full history, one owner. Front/rear parking sensors, panoramic glass roof, Bluetooth/USB, climate control, auto lights/wipers.....£7,250

2013 (13) 208 Access 1.0 3dr finished in Bianca White. Radio CD/MP3, electric windows, remote locking.....£7,995

2012 (62) 208 Access + 1.2 5dr finished in Nera Black. Air conditioning, electric windows/mirrors, radio CD, cruise control.....£8,995

2012 (62) 208 Active HDI (70) 3dr finished in Silver. Touch Screen Bluetooth/USB, cruise control, alloys, front fog lights.....£9,495

2012 (62) 208 Active 1.0 VTI 5dr finished in Aluminium Silver. Very low mileage. Touch screen Bluetooth/USB, parking aid, air conditioning, alloys.....£9,995

2013 (13) 208 Allure 1.2 VTI 5dr finished in Rioja Red. Climate control, auto lights and wipers, electric pack, touch screen DAB/Bluetooth/USB.....£11,995

2013 (13) 208 GTI 200bhp finished in Bianca White with Leather/Alcantara interior. Ex-demonstrator. Touch screen satnav.£15,995

PEUGEOT 307/308/3008

2005 (53) 307 5 HDI 70 5dr finished in Silver. One owner, full history, Air conditioning, radio CD, alloy wheels.....£2,275

2013 (13) 308 Active HDI (92) Navigation finished in Nera Black metallic. Full colour satnav, Bluetooth/USB, parking sensors, folding mirrors, climate control, auto lights/wipers.....£10,995

2010 (60) 308 Exclusive HDI EGC (110) finished in Babylon Red with Black leather interior. Low mileage, one owner, full history. Panoramic Glass Roof, 'Heads Up' display, climate control.....£11,995

2013 (13) 3008 Active HDI (115) finished in Nera Black. Bluetooth/USB, alloys, parking sensors, auto lights/wipers, cruise control.....£13,995

PEUGEOT 508

2013 (13) 508 Allure HDI 140 finished in Aluminium. Full colour satnav, Bluetooth/USB, auto lights/wipers, parking sensors, 'openego' system.....£14,995

2013 (13) 508 SW Allure HDI 140 finished in Aluminium. Delivery Mileage. Full colour satnav, Bluetooth/USB, auto lights/wipers, parking sensors, 'openego' system.....£16,995

LCV

2008 (08) Partner Professional HDI finished in Aluminium Silver. One owner. Air conditioning, side loading door, bulkhead.....£3,250 plus VAT

2013 (13) Partner Professional HDI finished in Bianca White with ply lined interior. Bulkhead, kerb side loading door, Bluetooth/USB.....£8,995 plus VAT

2012 (62) Boxer L1 H1 HDI 110 Professional finished in Aluminium Silver with ply lined interior. Bluetooth/USB, air conditioning, bulkhead.....£9,950 VAT

OTHER MAKES

2004 (54) Daihatsu Charade EL 1.0 finished in Silver. One owner, low mileage. £30 per year road tax.....£1,850

2004 (54) Renault Clio Extreme 3 1.2 3dr finished in Black. One family from new. Air conditioning, radio CD, alloys.....£1,995

2003 (03) Volkswagen Polo E 1.2 finished in Silver.....£2,200

2008 (08) Volkswagen Passat SE TDI 105bhp finished in metallic blue. Two owners, full history. 105,000 miles hence.....£4,950

2007 (07) Renault Megane Dynamique CC finished in Silver. Just 22,000 miles. Panoramic roof, air conditioning, auto lights/wipers.....£4,995

2008 (08) Ford CMax Style 1.6 finished in Red. Low mileage. Air conditioning, remote locking, electric windows/mirrors.....£5,850

2006 (06) Suzuki Jimmy J1X + 1.3 Estate finished in metallic blue. Just 17,800 miles, full history. 4WD (high and low ratio), detachable tow bar.....£5,995

2010 (60) Renault Scenic Dynamique TomTom 1.5 DCI finished in Silver. Satnav, auto lights/wipers, air conditioning, radio/CD.....£7,995

2008 (57) Volkswagen Golf Match TDI Automatic finished in Blue. Air conditioning, radio CD.....£8,995

PART EXCHANGES TO CLEAR

1999 (T) Citroen Relay LWB High Top 2.5 Diesel finished in Blue. Long MOT, taxed.....£850 NO VAT



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18 NOVEMBER – 24 DECEMBER

ADDITIONAL £500[^] CONTRIBUTION



- ▶ £199 PER MONTH*
- ▶ 0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

ALFA GIULIETTA 1.4 TB 120 BHP TURISMO 5DR INCL. GHIACCIO WHITE PAINT

REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE

On the Road Price†	£18,255	Alfa Additional £500 [^] Contribution	£500	Duration of Contract	48 months	Rate of Interest (Fixed)	0.00%
Monthly Payment*	£199	Customer Deposit	£1,999	Total Amount Payable by Customer	£16,505	Representative 0.0% APR	
Alfa Deposit Contribution^^	£1,250	Amount of Credit	£14,506	Optional Final Payment	£5,153		

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01227 829930 www.northgatealfaromeo.co.uk



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†Model shown is Alfa Giulietta 1.4TB 120 bhp Turismo at £18,255 OTR† including Ghiaccio White special paint at £490. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa Giulietta range: Urban 26.2 – 53.3 mpg (10.8 – 5.3 l/100km); Extra Urban 48.7 – 76.3 mpg (5.8 – 3.7 l/100km); Combined 37.2 – 64.2 mpg (7.6 – 4.4 l/100km). CO₂ emissions 177 – 114 g/km.

‡Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Factors such as driving style, weather and road conditions may also have a significant effect on fuel consumption.

*With Alfa Romeo Preferenza you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 6,000 miles per annum in these examples) and being in good condition. Offers may be withdrawn or amended without prior notification. Offer subject to status, a guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough SL1 0RW. Offer applies to vehicles registered between 1 October to 31 December 2013 on Alfa Giulietta models. Terms and conditions apply.

[^]Additional £500 incl. VAT at 20% is valid on all new Alfa MiTo & Giulietta versions ordered between 18 November – 24 December 2013 and excludes Alfa Giulietta Model Year 2014. The £500 incl. VAT is over & above all current advertised retail offers during this period. Vehicles must be registered by 31 December 2013 and the offer can be used in conjunction with PCR, HP or a cash purchase. Retail Sales only, excludes Fleet & Personal Contract Hire. Terms & conditions apply. Whilst stocks last.

†On the road price includes 12 months road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Figures and prices are correct at time of publishing. Vehicles must be registered before 31 December 2013.

^{^^}£1,250 Alfa Romeo Deposit Contribution is only available on a PCR, HP and Cash and is valid from 1 October to 31 December 2013 on selected Alfa Giulietta models. Participating dealers only. Terms and conditions apply and are subject to exclusions. Retail Sales only.

53483

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Fuel consumption figures for the CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 56.5 - 58.9 (5.0 - 4.8), Extra Urban 62.8 - 65.7 (4.5 - 4.3), Combined 60.1 - 62.8 (4.7 - 4.5). CO₂ emissions: 124 - 119g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model Shown: CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC SR Manual in optional Urban Titanium Metallic at £27,380 On The Road. Terms and Conditions: New retail CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC registered between 19 October 2013 to 31 December 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations OCP:** £239 per month example shown based on CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC SR in Urban Titanium Metallic at £23,300 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative Interest rate per annum 0% fee (with £5,849.75 (25%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £3,846.25, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 6p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Complimentary Servicing:** 5 years' servicing or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first, includes a maximum of 5 manufacturer's scheduled services.

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The Bishop of Rochester Academy is looking to recruit an Exams Officer

The Academy has recently been successful in raising standards and last year was ranked as the 6th most improved school in the country. With a strong Christian ethos, we aspire to be at the heart of the community - a community with significant challenges and pockets of severe deprivation. With sponsorship from Rochester Diocesan Board for Education, Canterbury Christ Church University and Medway Council, we are focused on bringing real impetus for raising educational standards and improving opportunities for young people to achieve their potential - this is no more than they deserve. Our £20 million building programme, completed at Easter 2013, will enable us to achieve the ambitious and exciting plans for the Academy's progression, including increasing our 6th form numbers from 200 to 300 students.

You will be responsible for jointly managing all aspects of the Academy qualifications, examinations and awards and the administration of public examinations at Key Stage 3, 4 & 5. You will be expected to fulfil your duties in such a way as to safeguard and promote the welfare of Academy students.

Essential, Knowledge and Qualifications

- Excellent interpersonal, communication and telephone skills
- The ability to handle potentially difficult situations, within tight deadlines
- Able to demonstrate the willingness, commitment and ability to safeguard and promote the welfare of Academy Students
- Preferred minimum of 1 year relevant experience, ideally within a secondary school environment to include ideally:
 - managing examination entries
 - processing examinations/entries electronically to examination boards
 - knowledge/experience of dealing with results
 - setting up security and storage methods for managing exam papers/records/ results
 - produce quality reports, profiles and other statements regarding student progress
 - ability to manage invigilation needs and line manage exams assistant/casual invigilators
- Ability to exercise confidentiality and discretion.
- Ability to prioritise and use own initiative.
- Confident telephone manner.
- Support Academy ethos and vision in the wider community.
- Experienced and skilled at using Microsoft products such as Word, Excel, SIMS

To apply, visit www.boracademy.org and download an application form. Please send completed applications to: Bishop of Rochester Academy, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 5JB. Telephone 01634 303005, or e-mail the application form to: louise.buchanan@boracademy.org

Closing date: 6th January 2014

The Bishop of Rochester Academy is committed to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and expects staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced CRB Disclosure and satisfactory references

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College are currently looking for people to join our busy Creative & Visual Arts department at our Medway Campus. We currently have a vacancy within the following area:

Lecturer in Singing

- Part Time

Anticipated Starting Salary -£25,855 (Pro Rata)
depending on qualifications and experience

Medway Campus

Closing: 17/12/2013

An enthusiastic, part time singing teacher is required to work in a dynamic and thriving department. Responsibilities include curriculum delivery of vocal/ singing technique across a range of styles but particularly in relation to musical theatre performance. Working as a course tutor in a college with state-of-the-art resources, the successful candidate will work collaboratively with other lecturers on a wide range of performing arts projects. The candidate should have an industry background, a specialist degree and a teaching qualification. The ability to work as a musical director for productions is desirable.

Interviews will take place the week beginning 13 January, 2014

To apply for this position please contact job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application pack. The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a DBS check.



Experienced Quantity Surveyor; Ceilings, Drylining

The Invicta Group (www.theinvictagroup.co.uk) are looking for an experienced quantity surveyor to join their Ceilings, Drylining and Partitions division.

The role will encompass running Ceilings, Dry Lining and Partitions projects ranging from £10,000 to £750,000 in value in the London and Kent areas (projects already secured).

Previous experience in estimating and contracts management an advantage.

Package to be negotiated in line with experience. Company car included - full and current UK driving license essential.

Please send your CV and a brief cover letter to
careers@theinvictagroup.co.uk

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COVER SUPERVISOR
30 hours per week for 39 weeks per year
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Pro rata to £14,143.00 – £16,090.00

We are seeking to appoint a passionate member of support staff who will join a team of Cover Supervisors to provide cover supervision for absent teaching staff, involving the facilitation of learning by KS3 and KS4 students in a safe and secure learning environment. To undertake other non-teaching duties as directed during non-cover lessons including the provision of administrative support for specified projects.

The ideal applicant...

- will relate well to students
- must have good attendance and punctuality record
- will be able to liaise and communicate effectively with staff and students
- must be confident to lead classes of up to 30 students.
- needs to be proactive to engage with students, using materials left for classes.
- will develop their own resources to supplement teacher resources.
- will be familiar with the use of interactive whiteboards (or prepared to be trained).

The School received a very positive Ofsted Report recently and was rated 'good' in every category with some outstanding features. Thamesview is a new school build that benefits from innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from our HR Manager on 01474 566552 ext 8081120 or email m.thomson@thamesview.kent.sch.uk until the 20th December 2013. After this date application forms can be downloaded from our website www.thamesviewsch.co.uk

Closing Date: 8th January 2014, 9.00am
Interviews: Week Commencing 13th January 2014

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
Thamesview School operates a no smoking policy.

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Swale Academies Trust Westlands School

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

SITE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN/CARETAKER
Required for February 2014

£14,382 - £16,305 - 37 hours a week

The successful applicant will work as a member of the Site Maintenance team, line-managed by the Site Manager. As well as general caretaking duties, they will be expected to undertake site maintenance. A working knowledge and experience of carpentry, electrics, plumbing and decorating would be desirable.

Applicants should be flexible over start and finish times. Shifts will be between the hours of 6.00 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. Extra payments will be made to cover any out-of-hours lettings during evenings and weekends and for weekend/Bank Holiday standby duty, all of which are carried out on a mandatory, shared rota basis.

Recruitment packs with full details are available from Westlands School or online; (www.westlands.org.uk). An application form and covering letter detailing how you meet the person specification should be provided. Please note, we cannot accept CVs alone. No agencies.

Closing date: Wednesday 8 January 2014 (noon)

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Contact Details: Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461 Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Head of School: Mr S Cox MA Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

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PLANNING

Planning applications



Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/13/02027/FUL: Long Meadow Farm, Duckpit Road, Waltham, CT4 5QA Creation of a manege for the safe exercising and schooling of competition horses. Applicant: Mrs C Poole Reason: Major development.
CA/13/02063/FUL: Canterbury College, New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3AJ Demolition of existing buildings and construction of new sports and business centre and new arts block. Applicant: Canterbury College Reason: Major and conservation area.
CA/13/02066/FUL: Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Ethelbert Road, Canterbury, CT1 3NG Alteration and extension of existing staff car park to provide 405 car parking spaces of which 16 will be disabled bays, erection of four new lighting columns and associated landscaping works Applicant: Kent and Canterbury Hospitals Reason: Major development.
CA/13/02138/FUL: 14 Sunnymead, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NW Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of new conservatory to the rear of the property. Applicant: Mr P Ashdown Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02170/LB: 16 Orchard Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AP Internal and external works to the first floor including removal of existing internal walls existing cupboard, door surround and bathroom fittings, infilling existing wall next to stairs, installation of new partitioning, cupboards and bathroom fittings, replastering and rewiring throughout, insertion of new window to rear elevation, new boiler to first floor bedroom with flue inserted into rear elevation and installation of all rainwater goods to the rear. Applicant: Mrs C Dunn Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/02213/FUL: 11A Vernon Place, Canterbury, CT1 3HG Demolition of single-storey garage and erection of three storey extension to front of dwelling Applicant: Mr and Mrs Griffiths Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02221/FUL: Highfield Nursing and Convalescent Home, Bekebourne Lane, Bekebourne, CT4 5DX Extension to existing care home to create 33 additional rooms and associated parking. Applicant: Larch Nursing Homes Ltd Reason: Major development.
CA/13/02240/LB: 37 North Lane, Canterbury, CT2 7EE Installation of replacement boiler with an external flue through lean to roof to side of dwelling. Applicant: Mrs I Walsh Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/02248/FUL: Youth Sea Cadets, Puckle Lane, Canterbury, CT1 3JX Demolition of buildings previously occupied by the Sea Cadets. Applicant: Canterbury City Council Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02263/FUL: Land to east of Cornwallis, University of Kent, Canterbury Erection of a part three and part four storey building linked to the existing Cornwallis north-east building, (including partial demolition of single-storey element of existing building to facilitate new access link) to create additional academic teaching/office space; reconfiguration of existing access arrangements off Darwin Road; car and cycle parking facilities; bin storage and new landscaping. Applicant: University of Kent Reason: Major development.
CA/13/02272/FUL: Gardeners Cottage, Charlton Park, Bishopsbourne, CT4 5JA Side extension with accommodation in the roof and addition of roof lights. Applicant: Mr J Collins Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/02273/LB: Gardeners Cottage, Charlton Park, Bishopsbourne, CT4 5JA Side extension with accommodation in the roof and addition of roof lights. Applicant: Mr J Collins Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/02284/FUL: 12 Chantry Court, St Radigunds Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AD Replacement of timber windows with uPVC to flat. Applicant: Mrs Lamb Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02298/FUL: 16 Richmond Street, Horne Bay, CT6 5LP Proposed separation of existing shop and residential flat to form self contained residential unit at first floor; proposed change of use of ground floor from use A1 (retail) to use A5 (hot food takeaway) together with replacement shop front. Applicant: All Point Trading Ltd Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02303/FUL: 19 Whitstable Road, Bleau, CT2 9EA Demolition of existing workshop, utility and side lobby; erection of single storey rear and side extension and alterations. Applicant: Mrs N Kitson and Mr R Kitchen Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc to arrive on or before Monday 13 January 2014.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 13 December 2013

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE BYWAY KH164 IN THE PARISH OF HOLLINGBOURNE

BYWAY KH164 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Byway KH164, between Pilgrims Way and Colyers Wents from the 23 December 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen sooner.

The path is to be closed because works are being undertaken to improve drainage.

Pedestrian and equestrian access will be maintained north of the junction with Public Footpath KH640 at NGR841 566.

The alternative route for vehicles is via Pilgrims Way, Hollingbourne Hill and Admirals Road.

For detailed enquiries please contact David Munn Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF LAND AS A VILLAGE GREEN

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by Mr. R. Hewitt under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks the inclusion in the Register of Town and Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green by virtue of the use of the land for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' and without challenge by the landowner for a period of over 20 years.

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221628 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to Ms. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, so as to arrive no later than Friday 24th January 2014. Please quote reference VGA656. Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for registration as a Village Green

An area of land of approximately 0.4 acres (0.16 hectares) in size situated to the rear of property numbers 28 to 35 Masefield Way at Tonbridge.

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF AN ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING PUBLIC FOOTPATH WB10 IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC FOOTPATH WB10 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on the 29th May 2013, and effective from 10th June 2013, the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Footpath WB10 has been extended for a further 24 months, until 9th December 2015.

The path is closed from Addison Road to Sandhurst Road, a distance of approximately 225 metres.

The alternative route is along the footway of Addison Road and Sandhurst Road and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Jonathan Bibby Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH WC297 (PART) SANDHURST) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2013

On 21 November 2013 Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of that Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath WC297 which commences at its junction with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WC297 at NGR TQ 8019 2861 (Point A) and runs in a south through south south westerly direction for 272 metres to its junction with the unaffected lengths of Public Footpaths WC297 and WC302 at NGR TQ 8014 2835 (Point B) and to provide a new length of Public Footpath WC297, with a width of 2.0 metres which commences at the land previously mentioned point A at NGR TQ 8019 2861 and runs in an east north easterly through easterly direction for 137 metres to NGR TQ 8033 2864 (Point C), then south, south south westerly, thence west south westerly direction for 235 metres to NGR TQ 8025 2842 (Point D), thence south south westerly for 74 metres to its junction with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WC302 at NGR TQ 8022 2836 (Point E). There will be a pedestrian gate at NGR TQ 8025 2842 (Point D) which will conform to BS 5709:2006.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of The Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN11 2AB or at the Kent County Council, Public Rights of Way & Access, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there at the price of £5.

The Order comes into force on 19 December 2013, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 15 December 2013, make an application to the High Court.

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 15th December 2013

For further information, please contact
Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent
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Council
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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 30 DECEMBER 2013

SW/13/1154:
Replacement of existing shop front at 2-4 Rose Street, Sheerness, Kent - Sheppey Aquatics, 2-4 Rose Street, SHEERNESS;
REASON 1

SW/13/1332:
To replace worn out wooden black single glazed upper ground floor rear door and frame with high performing draught-proof wooden black double-glazed upper ground floor rear door and frame - 1 St Ann's Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1402:
Change of use to include the stationing of caravans for 1 no. residential gypsy pitches with utility/day room buildings and hard standing ancillary to that use - Orchard Place, Ashford Road, BADLESMERE; **REASONS 2 & 6**

SW/13/1430:
Replacement of the fence along West Lane public footpath - Everest Ltd, Units 7A-7G, Eurolink Way, SITTINGBOURNE;
REASON 4

SW/13/1431:
Two storey rear extension & alterations to windows - 22 Church Lane, NEWINGTON; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1437:
Erection of lighting to vehicle compound together with the erection of internal 1.8 m high palisade fencing with gates - Park West, Cullet Drive, QUEENBOROUGH; **REASONS 3 & 4**

SW/13/1473:
1. Single storey rear extension to extend kitchen and form a dining room/day room. 2. Single storey side extension to form a replacement utility room/wc. 3. First floor extension above existing flat-roofed garage to form an ensuite bathroom (off the master bedroom) 4. Internal alterations to remove load-bearing walls at ground floor, to open up the floor plan into the extensions. 5. Removal of a rear chimney stack - The Gables, Upper St Ann's Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1474:
Proposed toilet block with shower facilities on North field of Faversham Scout Activity Centre - Faversham Scout Association Activity Centre, Plumford Lane, SHELDWICH; **REASONS 1 & 3**

SW/13/1475:
Proposed toilet block with shower facilities on North field of Faversham Scout Activity Centre - Faversham Scout Association Activity Centre, Plumford Lane, SHELDWICH; **REASON 2**

SW/13/1478:
The proposed works consist of the replacement of the existing flagpole with a new slim line Elara pole that will be of the same height as the existing, it will include an updated 1 no. trisector antenna within the shroud and the installation of 4 no. new equipment units; upon the roof of the Brewery - Shepherd Neame Ltd, Conduit Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1479:
Erection of Home Shopping 'pod', steel loading canopy and small link canopy. Formation of turning circle for delivery vehicles - ASDA, Mill Way, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 4**

SW/13/1484:
The construction of a new rear staircase access to the first floor flats at No. 42/44 Broadway - 42/44 Broadway, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1 & 4**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning



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PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING APPLICATIONS LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00986	Variation of condition 23 of planning permission DOV/98/00686 to allow the movement of delivery vehicles and/or unloading between the hours of 06.00 - 22.00 on Mondays to Saturdays and 08.00 to 19.00 Sundays; variation of condition 2 of DOV/98/00686 to allow amendments to the approved plans specifically the introduction of a shroud (Section 73 Application)	
	Aldi Foodstore, Cherry Tree Avenue, Dover, CT16 2NL	MAJ
DOV/13/00998	Retrospective application for the erection of a log cabin to be used as a shop (Use Class A1)	
	Delf Nursery, Deal Road, Sandwich, CT13 0BU	MAJ
DOV/13/01011	Erection of detached self contained dwelling to be used in conjunction with existing residential institution (class C2)	
	St Michaels, 166 London Road, Temple Ewell, Dover, CT16 3DE	ARW
DOV/13/00865	Installation of 6 replacement rear upvc windows and replacement security bars	
	Santander, 24 Cannon Street, Dover, CT16 1ST	CON
DOV/13/00960	Erection of a single storey rear extension (existing toilet block to be demolished)	
	St Margaret's Bowls Club, Kingsdown Road, St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Dover, CT15 6AZ	CON
DOV/13/01014	Change of use and conversion to a single residential dwelling	
	252 London Road, Dover, CT17 0SZ	LBC
DOV/13/01015	Conversion to a single residential dwelling and associated internal and external alterations	
	252 London Road, Dover, CT17 0SZ	LBC
DOV/13/01008	Erection of two detached buildings incorporating 11 flats (existing buildings to be demolished)	
	St. Johns Ambulance Hall, Mill Hill, Deal, CT14 9EN	MAJ
DOV/13/00945	Reserved matters application for residential development of 230 dwellings and public open space, with access from Hancocks Field, Hunters Walk, and Hyton Road, including roads, cycle paths, footpaths, ancillary works incorporating landscaping, a pond, and alterations to existing public rights of way (landscaping, appearance, layout and scale)	
	Land between Deal & Sholden, Church Lane, Sholden, Deal	CMRW
DOV/13/00781	Heighten perimeter boundary fencing to 3.6 metres	
	Downs C.E. Primary School, Owen Square, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7TL	MAJ
DOV/13/01007	Erection of 20 beach huts	
	Beach Plots, Walmer Sea Front, The Strand, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7DY	CON
DOV/13/00988	Erection of single storey front extension	
	2 & 3 Oast Cottages, School Lane, Wingham, Canterbury, CT3 1BG	CON

Reason for Advert Codes:-

MAJ – Major Development
CON – Within Conservation Area
CMRW – Contrary to Development Plan, Major Development & affects a Public Right of Way

ARW – Affects a Public Right of Way
LBC – The proposal affects a Listed Building
MAJ – The proposal affects a Listed Building
CON – Contrary to Development Plan, Major Development & affects a Public Right of Way

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/03622/FULL	Weavers Mill Street, Benenden
- Construction of new detached dwelling with ancillary garage/home office, parking and access (LB)	
13/03513/FULL	OS Plots 6528 & 7340 Coldharbour Lane, Frittenden
- Erection of stable block and construction of 60m x 20m outdoor riding arena. Change of use from agricultural to equestrian use (MAJOR) (LB)	
13/03584/FULL	Hawkhurst Castle Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst
- Removal of condition 3 – to restrict occupancy to persons aged 60 or over. Erection of a replacement three-storey 90-bed care home (Class C2) with parking and access facilities (TW/13/02636 refers) (MAJOR)	
13/03605/HOUSE	Farthing Cottage The Down, Lamberhurst
- Two-storey rear extension and garage extension (Minor revision to previously approved application TW/13/02510) (CA)	
13/03589/HOUSE	36 Frant Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Proposed two storey side extension (CA)	
13/03610/FULL	Bournes Removals 2 Draper Street, Southborough Town Council
- Demolition of existing storage building and erection of a 3-storey building comprising two apartments (1 x 1-bed and 1 x 2-bed) with ancillary garaging and parking facilities (CA)	
13/03575/FULL	Hollands Farm Langton Road, Speldhurst
- Four bedroom, two storey dwelling (LB) (CA)	

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting A Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 14 December 2013



THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/13/1809/S - THE DAIRY HOUSE, HIGH STREET, YALDING, KENT, ME18 6HX - Retrospective planning application for installation of photovoltaic panels on garage roof. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/1900/S - LAND REAR OF 12, CLEAVESLAND, YALDING, KENT, ME18 6BS - Demolition of garages and erection of 4 terrace houses and a detached bungalow with parking. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1924/N - BOXLEY ABBEY, BOARLEY LANE, SANDLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3BT - Change of use of eastern part of barn to wedding and function venue with parking, vehicle access and associated works. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/1932/S - 3, FORGE COTTAGES, MAIDSTONE ROAD, NETTLESTEAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 5HF - Listed Building Consent for replacement of all windows with new purpose-made timber windows to style of existing, but double-glazed. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1989/S - WANSHURST GREEN FARM, BATTLE LANE, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9DF - An application for listed building consent for replacement of existing windows and doors with hardwood units. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/2001/N - 1-3, CLARENDON PLACE, KING STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1BQ - Listed Building Consent for internal alterations and to alter two external doors to windows. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/2004/S - SWAN INN, BROAD STREET, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3AJ - Listed building consent for the demolition of part of rear addition, erection of new rear extension and internal alterations to facilitate change of use to single dwellinghouse. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/2015/S - THE OLD FARMHOUSE, UPPER FOWLE HALL, WILLOW LANE, PADDOCK WOOD, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 6PF - First floor rear extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/2016/S - THE OLD FARMHOUSE, UPPER FOWLE HALL, WILLOW LANE, PADDOCK WOOD, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 6PF - Listed Building Consent for a first floor rear extension. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/2020/N - LAND AT EAST LENHAM FARM, LENHAM HEATH ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT - An application for minor material amendments to application MA/12/0013 (Construction of 5MW photovoltaic park including attendant infrastructure and associated works) through variation of condition 13 of that permission being:
Reduction in number of inverters and transformers from 5 to 4 and change in position, orientation, and size. Amendments to the location of roadway/paths.
Increase of 2,541 modules installed overall and panel heights reduced by 20cm.
Amendments to the lengths of solar panel rows and their positions.
Amendments to the location of substations.
Amendments to the location of fencing. **Reason: 1, 6**

MA/13/2039/N - 69-77 WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QU - Creation of 14 flats at first and second floor levels with associated internal and external work. **Reason: 1, 2, 6**

MA/13/2041/N - 3, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5BJ - Change of use from Class B1 office use to a mixed use of Class D1 medical use (dental surgery) and ancillary office and storage use. **Reason: 1, 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **29th December 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 15th December 2013.



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/1225/SH - Flat A 56 Earls Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2HB - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising the felling of a Holly tree and a Sycamore tree and the reduction in height of a Pear tree by approximately 50%

Y13/1226/SH - 59 Earls Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2HA - Overall reduction by one third of a Cherry tree situated within a conservation area

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

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HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

**APPLEDORE LEVEL CROSSING, APPLEDORE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Appledore Level Crossing, Appledore.

Overnight Closures are planned for the 4 nights of Monday 16 December to Thursday 19 December 2013 inclusive.

Closures are from 23:00 hours through until 05:00 hours each night.

B2080 Station Road, Appledore will be closed at the level crossing.

There will be no direct access between Tenterden and the Romney Marsh during these closures.

The alternative route is via The Street, Tenterden Road, Reading Street, Appledore Road, B2067 Woodchurch Road, Brook Street, Kenardington Road, Warehorne Road, The Street, Marsh Road, Ashford Road, A2070 Ashford Road to Brenzett Corner Roundabout, B2080 Rhee Wall Road and Station Road.

**CHARING HEATH ROAD, CHARING HEATH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow a detailed inspection of the railway bridge to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Charing Heath Road, Charing Heath.

A closure is planned for Sunday 5 January 2014 from 07:30 hours to 18:00 hours.

Charing Heath Road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via A20 Maidstone Road, Station Road, Charing Heath Road (Charing / Broadway), Egerton Road, Tile Lodge Road and Charing Heath Road.

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984

(PUFFIN CROSSING – SANDWICH)

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, propose to establish a crossing (Puffin) under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH: Located outside building 530 (Pfizer) A256 Ramsgate Road, Sandwich.

**WOODNESBOROUGH ROAD LEVEL CROSSING,
SANDWICH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER DECEMBER 2013**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of level crossing maintenance works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Woodnesborough Road Level Crossing, Sandwich.

Overnight Closures are planned for the 4 nights of Monday 16 December to Thursday 19 December 2013 inclusive.

Closures are from 22:30 hours through until 06:00 hours each night

Woodnesborough Road will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Woodnesborough Road, St Bart's Road, New Street, Cattle Market and Moat Sole

Westbound via Moat Sole, Cattle Market, Harnet Street, Strand Street, High Street, The Chain, Galliard Street, New Street, St Bart's Road and Woodnesborough Road.

Please note that additional overnight closures are planned for the 4 nights 20 January to 23 January 2014 inclusive, from 23:00 hours through to 05:00 hours each night, to be confirmed.

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESHAM AREA

**RATHMORE ROAD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because the delivery of bridge components and construction plant to Gravesend Station is necessary, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rathmore Road, overnight on the 15th/16th and 16th/17th November and also from 21st December 2013 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route for vehicles travelling north will be Darnley Road, The Overcliff, Lennox Road, Pelham Road, Old Road West and Wrotham Road.

For vehicles travelling south the diversion will be Darley Road, Pelham Road, Old Road West and Wrotham Road.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

**HORSESHOES LANE, LANGLEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the renewal of overhead power cables and poles, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Horseshoes Lane, Langley, on or after 18 December 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between A274 Sutton Road and Heath Road.

The alternative route is via A274 Sutton Road and B2163 Leeds Road.

**HOSPITAL ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of repairs to the railway bridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hospital Road, Hollingbourne, on or after 3 January 2014 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Greenway Court Road, Eyhorne Street and A20 Ashford Road.

HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

**MANOR ROAD, HARTLEY AND LONGFIELD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of detailed railway bridge examination works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Manor Road, Hartley and Longfield, on or after 22nd December 2013 for up to 1 night from the hours of 02:00am until 06:35am or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed near Manor Farm and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: from Manor Road, Hartley Bottom Road, Main Road, Manor Road and vice versa.

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

**WILDAGE & MADAM'S BOTTOM, STELLING MINNIS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER DECEMBER 2013**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow safe access to the overhead cable network to provide a new customer phone service, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Wildage & Madam's Bottom, Stelling Minnis.

The closure is planned to commence from Tuesday 17 December 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day

The road will be closed between Forest View Farm and Wildage Farm.

The alternative route is via South Lodge Road, Fishers Lane and Fir Tree Hill.

HIGHWAYS – TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

**KILN BARN ROAD, DITTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains laying, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic travelling at any speed greater than 30mph on Kiln Barn Road, Ditton, on or after 2 January 2014 for up to 57 days or until the works have been completed.

The restriction will be between Ragstone Court to the former laboratory site.

HIGHWAYS–TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

**WARWICK PARK
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING & NO ENTRY)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the construction of a new hotel, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Warwick Park, on or after 16 December 2013 for up to 18 months or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed on 16 December for one day, from the junction of A267 Neville Street to Rodmell Road. The alternative route is via A267 Frant Road, B2169 Birling Road, Forest Road and Warwick Park.

There will be no entry from the junction of A267 Neville Street/Frant Road into Warwick Park on 17 December 2013 for up to 18 months or until the works are complete.

HIGHWAYS – WEST KENT AREA

**VARIOUS ROADS, KENT (CARRIAGEWAY PATCHING)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow a programme of **carriageway patching** to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Kent, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after **1st January 2014** for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed. It is anticipated that these works will be undertaken between **1st January and 31st March 2014** unless otherwise shown.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below, in a Schedule listed in alphabetical order of District.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place.

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

SCHEDULE

MAIDSTONE

CARING LANE, LEEDS – closed between A20 Ashford Road and Forge Lane

Anticipated duration 5 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Forge Lane, B2163 Upper Street, Lower Street, Penfold Hill and A20 Ashford Road (And vice versa)

CHEGWORTH ROAD, HARRIETSHAM – closed between A20 Ashford Road and Lenham Road

Anticipated duration 3 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Lenham Road, Broomfield Road and A20 Ashford Road (And vice versa)

DEAN STREET, EAST FARLEIGH – closed between Lower Road and Heath Road

Anticipated duration 2 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Heath Road, Ewell Lane, Smiths Hill, and Lower Road

HARTNUP STREET, MAIDSTONE – closed between A26 Tonbridge Road and Hackney Road

Anticipated duration 3 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via A26 Tonbridge Road and Fant Lane (And vice versa)

Rescind one-way traffic order in **HARTNUP STREET** to allow access from Tonbridge Road during works.

HOLLINGBOURNE HILL AND EYEHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE – closed between Ringlestone Road and Greenway Court Road

Anticipated duration 5 days 0930hrs to 1500hrs

Alternative Routes: **Southbound** via Ringlestone Road, Ringlestone Road (Black Post crossroads past Ringlestone Inn and via Hogbarn Lane – one way eastwards), Hogbarn Lane (one way south), Stede Hill (2 way), Church Road, A20 Ashford Road, Eyehorne Street. **Northbound** via Eyehorne Street, Church Road, Stede Hill (2 way), Steed Hill (From j/w Hogbarn Lane to Black Post crossroads – one way north-westwards), Ringlestone Road (2 way)

ONE WAY

Southbound diversion

Ringlestone Road from Black Post crossroads (j/w The Street) to j/w Hogbarn Lane

Hogbarn Lane from j/w Ringlestone Road to j/w Steed Hill

Northbound diversion

Steed Hill between j/w Hogbarn Lane and Black Post crossroads (j/w The Street)

LIVERTON STREET, LIVERTON HILL, HEADCORN ROAD, PLATTS HEATH – closed between Platts Heath crossroads (j/w Chain Gate Road) and Woodcock Lane

Anticipated duration 1 day 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Eastwood Road, The Street, Ulcombe Hill, Lenham Road and Headcorn Road (And vice versa)

SHEEPHURST LANE, MARDEN – closed between B2079 Goudhurst Road and B2162 Maidstone Road

Anticipated duration 11 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via B2079 Goudhurst Road, C50 Brencley Road, C50 Goudhurst Road and B2162 Maidstone Road (And vice versa)

SPENNY LANE & CLAYGATE ROAD, MARDEN – closed between B2162 Maidstone Road and Jarmons Lane

Anticipated duration 4 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Jarmons Lane and B2162 Maidstone Road (And vice versa)

THURNHAM LANE, BEARSTED – Closed between Pilgrims Way and The Street, Bearsted

Anticipated duration 6 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via Pilgrims Way, Water Lane and The Street (And vice versa)

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

BARDEN ROAD, SPELDHURST – Closed between B2176 Penshurst Road and Speldhurst Hill

Anticipated duration 3 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via Speldhurst Hill, Etherington Hill, Speldhurst Road, A26 London Road, B2176 Bidborough Ridge and B2176 Penshurst Road (And vice versa)

CONGHURST LANE, HAWKHURST – Closed between A268 Rye Road and B2244 Hastings Road

Anticipated duration 4 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via B2244 Hastings Road, A229 The Moor, Moor Hill, Highgate Hill, A268 Rye Road (And vice versa)

DELMONDEN LANE, HAWKHURST – Closed between A268 High Street and A229 Horns Road

Anticipated duration 3 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via A229 Horns Road, The Moor, Moor Hill, Highgate Hill, A268 High Street and Hawkhurst Road

HAWKENBURY ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS – Closed between Forest Road and Dundale Road

Anticipated duration 3 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via Dundale Road A26 Hastings Road (Pembury bypass), A264 Pembury Road, B2023 Prospect Road, Bayhall Road and Forest Road (And vice versa)

SANDHURST ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS – Closed from Upper Grosvenor Road to Birken Road

Anticipated duration 3 days 0930hrs to 1500hrs

Alternative route via Sandhurst Road, Pembury Road, Sandrock Road, Garden Road, Victoria Road, Goods Station Road (northbound), Grosvenor Road, or Meadow Road (southbound) Upper Grosvenor Road and Sandhurst Road

CHAPEL LANE, HAWKHURST – Closed between A262 The Street (Sissinghurst High Street) and Tenterden Road

Anticipated duration 3 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via A262 The Street, A229 Angley Road, Waterloo Road, The Hill, Bakers Cross and Golford Road (And vice versa)

JARVIS LANE, GOUDHURST – Closed between B2084 Chequers Road and Curtisden Green Road/Horden Road

Anticipated duration 3 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Curtisden Green Lane, B2079 Winchet Hill, Summerhill, North Road and B2084 Chequers Road (And vice versa)

KNOWLE ROAD, BRENCLEY – Closed between Knowle Lane and Crook Road

Anticipated duration 3 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Crook Road, Pixot Hill and Mile Oak Road (And vice versa)

ROSEMARY LANE, GOUDHURST – Closed between A21 London Road and County boundary (Rosemary Farmhouse)

Anticipated duration 2 days 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via A21 London Road, (East Sussex) B2087 Flimwell High Street and Rosemary Lane (And vice versa)

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 15th December 2013

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 03000 418181 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways





TRIATHLETE: Natalie Seymour is aiming to break into the top levels of a new sport after ditching hockey, which she had played since she was a child

62 Week ending December 15, 2013

Heartache of Olympics led to new love for ex-hockey ace

Natalie Seymour was overlooked for a place on the world stage at London 2012, but it sparked a new passion for the former Canterbury player, who tells **Greg Miles** about why she switched the stick for swimsuit, bike and trainers.

IF you ever sought someone whose life in the last two years had been dictated by the Olympics and its legacy, you need look no further than Natalie Seymour.

She, like so many others, sweated blood and tears to get the chance to represent Great Britain on home turf at London 2012.

Training day in, day out, as a full-time athlete in Team GB's hockey programme proved an intense experience, with 31 players vying to be in the squad of 16 for the chance of a lifetime at the London spectacular.

But the former Canterbury defender missed the cut, coming cruelly close yet so far from the action after being named a reserve for the Games.

It meant she had to watch from the stands as her team-mates clinched a bronze medal, GB women's first at an Olympics for 20 years.

What followed was a year out of the sport she had played since secondary school and into which she had poured her heart and soul for a shot at the big time that never came.

However, a positive emerged from the tale for Maidstone-born Seymour.

As had been the hope of Lord Coe and the rest of the hierarchy behind the Games, the wealth of events meant that inspiration could be found in many forms. Accordingly, Seymour jumped head-first into triathlon.

She is not the only person to have taken to the saddle, water and track in the last 18 months as the sport has benefited from a leap in profile thanks largely to the success of Alistair and Jonathan Brownlee.

The former won gold and the latter bronze at the Games last year.

In claiming the gold medal, Alistair became Britain's first Olympic triathlon champion.

Sports fanatic Seymour played all

she could at school before settling on hockey as a teenager, with encouragement from her PE teacher.

At first this was with local side Maidstone before she switched to the county's premier side Canterbury at the age of 17, coinciding with involvement in England's youth set-up.

From there the chance to represent Great Britain at the Olympics became a real possibility; she made her senior international debut in 2006.

"What really shines through for me is that I loved sports when I was growing up. I did all the sports – I swam a lot, which is helping me now," said the 27-year-old.

"It was when I went to secondary school that I found team sport. I went to Maidstone Hockey Club with my sister and I played for the club and Canterbury and managed to work my way through the team.

"I didn't get into international level until the under-18s. I think every time I didn't get selected it made me want to go away and improve and go back and show what I could do.

"You often see youngsters who get into international squads at a young age lose that motivation, so it worked in my favour and motivated me.

“I wouldn't be human if I wasn't disappointed. I had worked so hard up to that point... I hold on to the fact that I was a part of the Olympics.”

Natalie Seymour,
Hockey player turned triathlete

"As I was growing up, I loved every sport, but hockey gave me lots of opportunities.

"At the time I realised I had more potential. I loved playing for Maidstone and enjoyed my time at Canterbury. I went off and saw the world. It was something I aspired to do."

It was a career that yielded a number of accolades in one of the most successful women's teams for decades, with bronze medals at the World Cup, Commonwealth Games and Champions Trophy in 2010 and at the EuroHockey Championships in 2011, while there was a silver at the 2012 Champions Trophy.

In total she earned 90 caps between England and Great Britain in both indoors and outdoor competition.

She managed all this while studying for a degree in health psychology at London Metropolitan before doing her Masters at the University of Kent and then going on to a full-time centralised hockey programme.

Although not guaranteed a place at the Olympics, it was a surprise that Seymour was left out and a bitter pill to swallow.

"I wouldn't be human if I wasn't disappointed," she said. "I had worked so hard up to that point. There were times when it was more difficult, but I hold on to the fact that I was a part of the Olympics.

"I haven't got any regrets about what happened and I did as much as I could.

"It was bittersweet. I was a reserve and was in the athletes' village and was part of the team in meetings. I got to experience some amazing things being part of it.

"But at the same time I wasn't out there performing and I really wanted to be playing. There were 31 involved in the centralised programme and they all wanted to be in the 16.

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KEA



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Green to spend a year out of sport after depression battle

HYTHE Olympic hurdler Jack Green has announced that he will take a year out of the sport to aid his recovery from depression.

The 22-year-old made the semi-finals of the 400m hurdles at London 2012 and is also the 2011 European under-23 400m hurdle champion.

He has not been in action this year and has withdrawn from the World Class Performance Programme in 2014 to help his recovery.

He said: "Those close to me and working with me know I have been suffering with depression over the last year and despite a full recovery I believe a break is necessary for my mental health.

"Athletics at the top level requires an application that I had, disappointingly, not been able to give it in recent times, which made life both on and off the track extremely difficult for me and I need to step back for a period of time."



HURDLER: Green

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■ **Larkfield A.C**

Larkfield
www.larkfieldac.co.uk

■ **Ocean Lake Triathlon**

Leybourne Lake, near
Snodland
www.oceanlaketri.co.uk

■ **Sittingbourne Triathlon Club**

Sittingbourne
www.sittingbournetri.onsport.com

■ **White Oak Triathlon Club**

Sidcup
www.whiteoaktri.co.uk

■ **Medway Tri**

Medway
www.medwaytri.com

"Just to be a part of London 2012 is something I can hold on to. It's really important for me to hold on to that."

After the Olympics, Seymour made the decision to step back from hockey, both domestically with Canterbury and internationally.

It was during her time away that she started her new love affair with the triathlon, the seeds of which had been sown at the Olympics.

"In the past I have been to watch triathlons because friends have taken part," she said. "I remember watch-

ing the London triathlon and thought I really want to do this one day. I've done it and it's such an amazing event to be a part of.

"I've always had that desire to do it at some point in my life. I'm aware that it has seen such a lift since 2012, as have many sports, including hockey. It inspires you to go on with it."

In the grand scheme of things, triathlon is still a baby in the sporting world. It is unclear how it all began, with some believing it to have started in France between the First and Second World Wars.

It was some years later that the first official triathlon took place, though, in 1974 in Mission Bay, San Diego. It came to Britain nine years later when the British Triathlon Association was founded.

The world governing body, the International Triathlon Federation, came together in 1989 and organised the first World Championships that year in Avignon, France, and it was only in 2000 that it made its Olympic debut at the Sydney Games.

"I knew I needed a break from hockey. I felt like doing something different for a year," said Seymour, who trains with the Thames Turbo club near her home in London. "I did a couple of 10K races last year and it all came together.

"I wasn't starting straight from zero. I'm really fortunate in having a strong strength and conditioning behind me from my hockey days.

"It was a case of learning about the sport and I have had to spend more time swimming. The run speed has always been there, but learning to transfer the strength over to the bike took time.

"I've made lots of improvements, but there's a long way to go. I'm enjoying the new challenge."

Although an elite athlete in hockey,

she had to start in the non-professional ranks in triathlon in the age-group series, hers being 25-29.

A third-place finish in the British Sprint Championship, the shorter-distance triathlon, was a big confidence boost to start with.

She then finished fourth at a qualifier in Liverpool for the World Age Group Championships, which took place in Hyde Park, London, in the summer. There she finished an impressive ninth.

Now juggling her fitness regime around a clinical-psychology training programme with the NHS in London, she hopes to push on next year to the next level, the British Super Series, which is one rung on the ladder below the elite-level performers where the Brownlees, for example, compete.

"At the moment I'm focusing my training around the Super Series and will see what I can do," she said.

"It's another challenge. I still feel like there's more improvements to be made.

"At the moment this is keeping me really motivated and I'm enjoying the challenge because it's about how hard I can push my body."

A return to hockey does not seem to be on the horizon at the moment, but it's a case of never saying never for Seymour.

"I really enjoyed hockey. It's one of those sports I can go back to," she said. "I think they understand where I was coming from and I haven't officially retired, but there's no sense that I want to go back at the moment.

"While I'm not playing club hockey, I'm not in contention for anything internationally.

"Club hockey would have to be my first port of call and I would have to enjoy it. Canterbury are training full-time and I cannot commit to that."

KEA

TREDWELL: Australia-bound

Tredwell gets call-up for Aussie series

KENT'S James Tredwell has been named in England's squads for the ODI and T20 series against Australia in the New Year.

England will take on the Aussies in a five-match ODI series starting on January 12 in Melbourne; it is followed by a three-match T20 series.

England selector Geoff Miller said: "We have an important period of limited-overs cricket coming up, with an ICC World T20 in Bangladesh in March and we are just over a year away from the ICC Cricket World Cup in New Zealand and Australia.

"These two series against Australia allow valuable opportunities for players to push for places in both squads and, given the rivalry between the sides, both series will no doubt be keenly contested."

Byrne to return to BSB in 2014

SHANE Byrne will once again try to create history by competing for a fourth British Superbike title next season.

The Sittingbourne star narrowly missed out on what would have been his fourth championship this year but has put speculation to bed by announcing that he will ride for the Rapid Solicitors Kawasaki team again.

Hinch is the hero in England win

HOLCOMBE'S Maddie Hinch was the hero as England claimed a bronze medal in the Hockey World League via a penalty shoot-out.

Holcombe team-mate Laura Unsworth scored the opener as it finished 1-1 in normal time.

And Hinch saved twice as England beat hosts Argentina 4-2 on penalties.

Osborn sacked as Margate manager

MARGATE Football Club have sacked manager Simon Osborn.

The former Gills midfielder had jointly held the position with Gate keeper Craig Holloway until the latter took a step back last month.

The Ryman Premier club took the decision to dismiss Osborn this week with the club sitting in mid-table.

London 2012 medallist Quilter retires

DARTFORD-BASED Ben Quilter, who won bronze at the London 2012 Paralympic Games, has announced his retirement from judo.

Quilter, who is visually impaired,

is also a double World Champion and European Champion and will remain in disability sport having recently been elected to the Paralympics GB Athletes' Commission.

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10/60 2.0 TDI 110 SE 5dr 4x4 Cappuccino under 58,000 miles	£13,995
11/61 1.2 TSI 105 S 5dr Candy White under 21,000 miles	£11,895

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13/13 2.0 TSI 220PS vRS Estate Manual Race Blue under 1,000 miles	£21,995
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13/13 2.0 TDI 170 vRS Estate Steel Grey under 3,000 miles	£18,995
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